

## Mr. Meredith on the Speaker's Rights.

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— Large Number of Government and Other Bills Advanced a Stage—Electric Companies' Incomes.

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Legislative Chamber, April 6.

Some time was spent at the opening of the House to-day in discussing questions of privilege. First Hon. Mr. Harcourt explained that the supposed pilfering and desk-breaking that Mr. Glendinning had complained of had proved to be nothing serious, and was largely explainable by trifling circumstances. Mr. Glendinning expressed himself satisfied in the main, though some things were still a mystery to him. Mr. A. F. Wood corrected a misinterpretation of a remark made by him in *The Empire's* report of this morning. Then Mr. Meredith arose and objected to a system which had sprung up, by which, he said, the rules of the House were being violated, and Mr. Speaker deprived of a patronage that rightly belonged to him. He alluded to the appointment of messengers, which he believed was now done by the Treasurer. He said the rules provided this should be the prerogative of the Speaker, and if the rules were not to be observed it was better they should be repealed. The Attorney-General, in reply, said that it was understood the Ministry of the day was practically responsible for these things. The letter of the rules might not be observed, but they were carried out in effect, because the Speaker sanctioned what was done. The present practice was an old one, and there seemed no ground for objecting to it so long as the appointments were satisfactory. The House then went into routine business. Two or three bills were read a first time, several a third time, and then private bills were taken up in committee. Some time was spent in this way over Mr. Tait's bill respecting the Toronto Railway Company. Mr. Tait advanced to Mr. Balfour's elbow, and, following the clauses closely with the Provincial Secretary, who has charge of all private bills, looked carefully after the interests of the city. Mr. Tait's two railway company bills, that promoted by the company itself, making certain changes in its management, and that regulating the vote for Sunday cars, were fused, the preamble being recast, and the provisions that there be no vote till 1896, that the intervals after that be of three years' duration, that "citizens" shall mean all those who were qualified to vote for the plebiscite, and that the vote shall be taken with full precautions, being inserted in the railway company's bill. Numerous verbal changes were made in the bill to fit the two parts together, and it was then reported.

### ORDERS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. F. Wood then moved for various orders as follows, which were all carried without discussion :—

For a return from the Provincial Inspector of Registry Offices, from his memoranda made at the inspection of registry offices in 1892, of the last instrument received for registration in each municipalit