

SPEAKER SUPPORTS OPPOSITION LEADER

Rules Are in Force and Not Affected by Custom —Motorists Have Speed Limit For Autos Raised.

Speaker Hoyle, at the opening of the Legislature yesterday, vindicated the position taken by Mr. Rowell on Wednesday afternoon, that private members were entitled to have legislation standing in their names taken up before Government business. At the time of Mr. Rowell's protest against the action of the Prime Minister, the Speaker said he would require time to consider the point, and promised his ruling at the opening of yesterday's sitting.

On the orders of the day being called, Mr. Hoyle, with some deliberation, reviewed the incident. In answer to Mr. Rowell's question he said:—

"With reference to the point raised by Mr. Rowell yesterday afternoon I desire to say that rules 19 to 23, inclusive, are in force now, and have always been in force since they were adopted. Further, I do not understand that any question has been raised against this view. The rules also provide that orders not taken up when called shall be dropped; but upon the request of members responsible for the orders they are always allowed to stand as a matter of courtesy, although the intention never has been that orders should be allowed to stand in this way for a long time, as our practice of late years has practically allowed.

Controls Government Business.

"Of course this does not affect the point raised by Mr. Rowell, and is merely incidental to it. It would be very difficult to work out the procedure without a certain amount of elasticity. The Government, through the leader of the House, has the right to control the order in which Government business shall be taken up, and in practice, since I have been in the Legislature, and, as I am informed, for many years previous to my entering upon public life, the leader of the House has been practically allowed to control the other business to the extent at least of suggesting when other business should be taken up.

"I have no recollection of any dispute ever arising as to the point which I am discussing, as apparently both sides of the House were in agreement as to this practice. This practice or custom does not, of course, affect the rule, which, as I have said, is in force now, and in the absence of concerted action by both sides of the House, as heretofore, it must be followed."

The Issue.

Mr. Rowell's question, as it will go on the record, reads:—"Are not the members of the House under rules 19 and 23 entitled to have the items standing on 'the orders of the day' taken up according to the precedence assigned to each on the order book on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in precedence to Government orders, and was not the undersigned entitled to have order No. 19 taken up before proceeding with Government orders?"

Speed Limit is Raised.

Motorists have prevailed upon the Government to raise the speed limit for automobiles. In putting the motor vehicles act through committee of the House Hon. W. J. Hanna explained that it had been urged from many quarters that the present limit of ten miles an hour in cities, towns and villages and

Liberals Discuss Speaker's Attitude

A caucus of the Liberal members of the Legislature was held yesterday afternoon in the office of Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., in the Parliament buildings. Many matters of importance in connection with proposed legislation were discussed, and there was a free expression of opinion on the refusal of the Speaker to allow certain questions, which were recently brought up, to be put on the order paper. The sense of the caucus was that the matter should not be allowed to rest where it is, and some action will probably take place in the House during the next few days.

fifteen miles an hour on the country roads be raised to fifteen miles in cities, towns and villages and twenty miles on country roads. This, said Mr. Hanna, would make a practical law, which people could live up to, for it was understood that very few people in motors travelled under fifteen miles an hour. Accordingly he moved an amendment to this effect.

The section prohibiting persons under the age of seventeen years from driving motors was amended to make the minimum age eighteen years, much to the disgust of Dr. Forpes Godfrey, who said that such a law ought to apply to drivers of bakers' and butchers' waggons rather than to motorists. When driving his own motor, said Dr. Godfrey, he found more trouble trying to keep out of the way of bakers' and butchers' waggons than from any other cause.

Must Stop Opposite Cars.

Section fifteen in the bill originally prohibited a motor from passing a street car which was stationary. On representations from Mr. George H. Gooderham that the matter had been considered carefully by the Legislative Committee of the City Council of Toronto, Mr. Hanna consented to amend the section to require that a motor must not pass a street car which has stopped for the purpose of taking on or discharging passengers on the side on which the passengers are until such passengers shall have finished getting on or off the car.

Sir James Whitney said that he had given this question a great deal of thought. The streets were for the people, he said. He had no doubt but that this section would be a cause of inconvenience to the drivers of motors, but that was no reason why the safety and lives of the people of this country should not be guarded in every way.

Health Act Criticized.

The public health act was also considered in committee, and produced a searching criticism from members of the medical profession in the House. Several members expressed the view that the allowance made to health officers would have the effect of bringing out good men for the positions. Hon. A. G. MacKay and Dr. J. McQueen (North Wentworth) questioned whether a salary of \$2,500 per annum would be enough to secure the best men. On this point Hon. Mr. Hanna said that already he had received 237 applications for positions as local officers. He was receiving them by every mail. The clause providing for \$1,000 for expenses for local officers, was amended, and the actual expenses of the local officers will be paid. The per diem allowance of \$2 and travelling expenses to members of local boards when attending meetings is made to apply only to townships.

Sit Again at Night.

The whole of the public health act was gone through clause by clause