

standing that with the consent of the House an item can be taken up out of its regular order on the order paper? I say nothing about government work because they have the right to take up any item they desire, but I refer to the general work belonging to private members.

Mr. FIELDING. In any exceptional case that can always be done by consent.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It could not be done otherwise than by consent.

Mr. SPROULE. But, if one member can object and prevent it I do not think it should be permitted.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The expression at present is 'upon the request of the government.' The practice which has prevailed in the past seems to suggest that inasmuch as the government can control the House their assent must be asked in order that a motion may not be dropped, and if they do grant the request then the motion does not drop but retains its precedence. That has been the practice in the past and that is what is being put into this rule. The rule did not formerly contain the words 'upon the request of the government.'

Mr. FIELDING. That has been the practice.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It has been the practice and I think it was so stated by Sir John Macdonald a great many years ago in a certain speech which was brought to the attention of the committee. The question for the consideration of the House is whether these words had better be in or not.

Mr. FIELDING. I think that the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) has referred to the preceding section.

Mr. SPROULE. Section 30.

Mr. FIELDING. Section 30 is in regard to government orders and not other orders. I take it that my hon. friend's criticism has reference to other orders?

Mr. SPROULE. Yes.

Mr. FIELDING. I am afraid that if any member were interested in a particular motion on the order paper he would feel that he had a right to have it retained in its place and that he should only waive that right by consent.

Mr. SPROULE. I know he has a right, but the rule which enables a man to object and to compel the whole House to submit to that objection seems to be rather a cast iron one. I think the right should be left to the House to take up any order that it desires to take up.

Mr. BARKER. I think that rule 31 should be modified.

Questions put by members and notices of motions, not taken up when called, may (upon

Mr. SPROULE.

the request of the government) be allowed to stand and retain their precedence; otherwise they will disappear from the order paper.

I think that puts too much power in the hands of the government. A member may give notice of motion on a very important subject and be here ready to discuss it, but the government may request that it should stand. He may not be here to-morrow and the government may say that it should go on.

Mr. FIELDING. Is that an exact case? My hon. friend assumes a case where a member wants to go on and move the motion.

Mr. BARKER. Certainly.

Mr. FIELDING. That is not what the rule is. This rule is to meet the case where a member is absent and the Speaker may say 'stand at the request of the government.' If the member is here and wants to take up the order he has the right to do so.

Mr. BARKER. I think the rule goes far beyond that. There is no question about absence or anything else. To-day my notice of motion comes up and I am ready to go on with it, but the government request that it stand.

Mr. FIELDING. That is not the case. The hon. gentleman would have the right to go on. It is only in a member's absence that this rule would apply.

Mr. STOCKTON. But the member might be away the next day.

Mr. FIELDING. If he is here he has his order on the paper and the government cannot interfere. But, if he is absent the government may ask that the order should be taken up on another day.

Mr. BARKER. I know what is the effect of a member insisting upon going on with his notice of motion against the wish of the government.

Mr. FIELDING. If he is here to attend to his order the government cannot stop it.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Sometimes when a member is here and ready to go on the government ask that the order be allowed to stand.

#### On rule 35,

#### PRIVILEGED MOTIONS.

When a question is under debate no motion is received unless to amend it; to postpone it to a day certain; for the previous question; for reading the orders of the day; for proceeding to another order; to adjourn the debate; or for the adjournment of the House.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This is a condensation of several rules which are not printed except in the text books but which are introduced into the rules of the House now.

Mr. BERGERON. What is the meaning of 'reading the orders of the day.'