

Hon. Mr. POWER: I do not think the mere fact that an answer is given in that way prevents a debate.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: I asked the honourable leader of the Government if he would answer the inquiry of the honourable member for Grandville, and after the reply is made by the minister I do not believe that a discussion is in order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: The Speaker is mistaken; I state so plainly. I rose before the honourable leader of the Government gave his answer.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I am in order; people who cry "Order, order" are out of order.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I will respect the Chair, but I will not respect the people opposite me who cry "Order."

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: Order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: That is a voice from the tomb; I don't like that.

CUSTOMS CLAIMS ON PROVINCES.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. WATSON moved:

That an Order of the Senate do issue for a copy of all papers and correspondence between the Minister of Customs and a member of the Executive Council of any province with regard to claims made by the Minister of Customs for the payment of customs duties by the Government of that province.

He said: I would like to get that correspondence before Bill 67 is considered by the Senate.

The motion was agreed to.

PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE.

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I should like to give notice of a motion for to-morrow that when the Senate adjourns on that day it do stand adjourned until Monday, July 9, at eight p.m.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Will not the House of Commons be dissolved before then?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Well, then we will not have to come back, I suppose, until we are summoned again.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I would like to point out that the Senate is a permanent body, and the House of Commons may go up in a volcano of smoke in the next few days: so I do not think it wise for the Government to adjourn a permanent institution of Parliament.

PRIVATE BILLS.

THIRD READINGS.

Bill S, an Act respecting The Canada Preferred Insurance Company.—Hon. Mr. Bostock.

Bill J2, an Act respecting The Western Canada Accident and Guarantee Company.—Hon. Mr. Laird.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES WAGES BILL.

THIRD READING.

Hon. Mr. WATSON moved the third reading of Bill D, an Act concerning the payment of salaries or wages of employees of railway companies.

Hon. GIDEON D. ROBERTSON: In compliance with the notice given yesterday, I beg leave to move:

That the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be amended as follows:

Strike out Clause 2 as recommended by the Standing Committee on Railways, Telegraphs, and Harbours, and substitute the following:

"2. This Act shall come into force on October 1, 1917."

The reason for this motion is that I feel that the Bill as it reads is not sufficiently definite to meet all requirements, and that some definite date should be set down upon which the measure would come into effect. Passing a measure of this sort without fixing a definite date on which it will be effective would be something like making a New Year's resolution effective some time in the future. Seriously, honourable gentlemen, the necessity for early action on this Bill will be apparent, I think, when I state that at the present time it takes \$2.40 to purchase goods or foods that could be bought for \$1.37 when the war broke out. That must be convincing to all of us as a demonstration of the need of the labouring man earning small wages to receive payment of those wages as promptly as possible. There is also on foot in many towns at the present time a movement on the part of merchants to require all purchasers to pay cash instead of giving credit, as they have done heretofore. This makes it doubly necessary that this measure of relief should be granted. We do not desire to ask anything unfair or unreasonable on behalf of