

Foster) does with regard to the opening of next session. We intend next session rushing into business at once and unless we dispose of these now I am afraid we will not have the benefit of them when we meet again in November.

Mr. FOSTER. There is about a week at the opening of the session when you cannot do much.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. These rules are now before the House, we can go over them and I suggest we should do so now.

Motion agreed to.

On rule 1.

In all cases not provided for hereinafter or by sessional or other orders, the rules, usages and forms of proceeding of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (in force on the first day of July, 1867) shall be followed. (Old rule 125 amended.)

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I may say that the only change is the addition of the words 'in force on the first day of July, 1867,' that is the rules that shall have the force of jurisprudence and law are the rules that were in force on the first day of July, 1867, at the time of confederation.

On rule 2,

The time for the ordinary meeting of the House is at three o'clock in the afternoon of each sitting day (except Wednesday, when the time of meeting shall be 1 o'clock in the afternoon), and if at the time of meeting there be not a quorum, Mr. Speaker may take the chair and adjourn. When the House rises on Friday, it stands adjourned, unless otherwise ordered, until the following Monday.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The same with the exception of Wednesday, which I have just explained.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like the Prime Minister's reasons for practically foregoing the Wednesday session. It is a very considerable change?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I shall have to refer to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. FIELDING. I may say that is my particular fad, and I have to be responsible, for I took the trouble to speak to the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) on the subject. In the English rules, they have one night a week on which the House does not sit. There may be members of parliament who may be indifferent to this rule, because if they want a night off they quietly take it and no questions are asked, but those members who follow the business of parliament most closely—and there is a very considerable number of members who sit here day after day and night after night with great regularity—find it a very great hardship that there should not be any night in the week on which they are

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

free to be absent, and it was thought by those members with whom I discussed the subject that it would be a decided convenience if there was some night in the week when the House would not sit. Many will use it as a period of rest and many others will use it as an opportunity to extend or receive hospitalities, which after all have some part in the make up of human affairs. I confess I am in a large degree responsible for that suggestion and I would be very sorry indeed to find it did not meet with the approval of the House.

Mr. LANCASTER. I wish to call attention to the hour suggested for sitting on Wednesday. Unless the government could assure us that committees would not meet on Wednesday, I would be opposed to sitting earlier than two o'clock. Those of us who work industriously on the committees cannot well spend the time from half past ten in the morning until six at night without having an hour in between for luncheon. When we consider that we have correspondence to attend to, and have to get here at nine or half past nine in the morning to see about it, and to prepare for our work on the committees, and then when we have to work on those committees, and take it out of ourselves, so to speak, as we do on those committees, if we then have to come to this House at one o'clock in the afternoon, I am afraid it will have the effect that some of us will not get here until a quarter to two or two o'clock. In that case we would not have the advantage of knowing what had been going on since the House met, and would be obliged to ask what might appear to others needless questions in order to acquaint ourselves with what had been going on. After the committees have been at work in the morning from ten o'clock, we want a little time to eat and to get a breath of fresh air. I would therefore urge upon the government to make the hour of meeting of the House at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon instead of one o'clock. We would then have four hours of steady work on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the evening taken in England?

Mr. FIELDING. Friday.

Mr. EMMERSON. There are a good many of us away on Friday any way.

Mr. FIELDING. Friday would not be a good day for us, for many reasons.

Mr. COCHRANE. It would be a good day for some of us.

Mr. STOCKTON. I think a night off is a very good thing. I have been giving quite close attention to committee work, and I think if we met at one o'clock on Wednesday it would seriously interfere with the work of the committee on that day. I think the Finance Minister who has been attending