

PRIVATE BILLS.

TIME FOR PRESENTING EXTENDED.

HON. MR. HOWLAN, from the Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bill, presented their Sixteenth Report, recommending that the time for presenting reports on Private Bills be extended to the 25th inst. He moved the adoption of the report.

HON. MR. POWER—I think that, as this report is of some importance, it had better stand over till to-morrow, because I think the better way would be for the House to strike from our rules the one which provides for the presenting of Private Bills at a certain time subsequent to the meeting of the House each year. The better way will be to have no rule on the subject at all, or have it read this way—the time for the introduction and presentation of Private Bills shall be that adopted by the House of Commons each Session. I think that the present mode of procedure is simply absurd and altogether inconsistent with the dignity of the House.

HON. MR. DICKEY. I quite concur in what my hon. friend has said as to the farce of constantly extending the rules; but, on this question, I hope he will not oppose the adoption of this report, for the reason that we have been acting as if these reports were made in good time, and it is desirable that nothing should take place do invalidate the proceedings of the House. I think in this case it would be better to adopt the report.

The motion was agreed to.

NEW SENATOR.

HON. PETER McLAREN was introduced, and having taken the oath and signed the roll, took his seat.

BANKING SECURITY IN THE NORTH-WEST.

ENQUIRY.

HON. MR. BOULTON rose to call

The attention of this House to the advantage of granting to the corporate Banks power to take security upon real estate, or personal estate, or both, for the advance of loans, as a measure that will increase circulation, and materially assist in the development of our agricultural interests by giving to the farmers cheap money for temporary requirements; and ask the Government if they will take the question into their consideration in the framing of the new Bank Act?

He said—I think that an apology is due from me to this honorable House and to the Government for having allowed this notice of motion to remain so long on the paper. The reason of its being so is that I was compelled to go up to the North-West, and not knowing the exact day on which I would return, I was obliged to put it off to a sufficiently distant day to warrant me in being here. In bringing up this question before the notice of the Government I am not doing so at the request of the banks, nor do I know that the banks are asking the power which I have thought it advisable to suggest for the consideration of the Government today. At the present moment, the banks have not power to take security upon real estate or personal estate. Although the law does not give the banks power to take security on real or personal property, there is still a way in which they can do so by what I call evading the law; that is to say, if the banks desire to make a loan and take security for that loan, they have the power to accept a draft at a day's date and let it go to protest and then take security. That is one way in which it can be done, but it is not a way which is at all conducive either to the interest of the banks or of the people themselves, to obtain a loan, because the very fact of the note going to protest and of having to give security for it, is an evidence of discredit on the part of the borrower. More than that, the provincial laws, in Ontario at least, and I know in Manitoba, also, provide that the bank which takes a preferential security on a loan in that manner shall not become a preference creditor, but shall rank with all the other creditors of the individual; and, therefore, it is an insecure way for a bank to deal with the matter so far as taking security on personal or real estate is concerned. The interest in which I have brought this question before the notice of this honorable House is that of our North-West farmers. There is a great scope for the use of capital in the North-West, and there is a very great dearth of capital, indeed, in that country. The ordinary system of settlement in that country is such that more capital is very desirable in the interest of the development of our western country. Most of the settlers who go up there are men without means, but with plenty of muscle and physical power to develop the