

took place between both sides in the House of Commons, and, that being the case, I assume that it would be unnecessary to discuss it here, particularly as it has to do with the other House. However, if my honourable friend—

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: All I can say is that one honourable gentleman, who left this afternoon, told me he understood this Bill was not to be taken up to-night.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No one ever spoke to me about it. If honourable gentlemen take certain liberties with regard to Bills of this kind without saying anything to me, who am charged with the responsibility of dealing with them, it is a rather strange procedure.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: He certainly wanted to speak on the subject.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: A practice followed in the House of Commons when I was there, in cases of this kind, was that when it was necessary, in order to facilitate the passage of a certain Bill, to permit the second reading to take place, it was understood that the principle of the Bill might be discussed in committee. We know that the rules of the House are that the principle must not be discussed in committee, but the Bill must be considered clause by clause. The practice followed in the House of Commons might be adopted in this case, in order that time may be saved. Honourable gentlemen opposite who desire to discuss the general principle of the Bill would then have an opportunity of doing so in committee. An amendment could be moved in committee just as well as upon the second reading. That is the course may not forget, as the Irishman says, to gentlemen want to keep repeating the same argument over and over again, so that we may not forget—as the Irishman says, to “insense” it into your minds.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: All I can say in reply to the honourable gentleman is this. Of course, I understand that practice is sometimes followed, but an honourable gentleman who left this afternoon asked me whether I understood that this Military Voters' Bill was to be proceeded with or not, and said that he particularly wanted to speak upon it on the second reading.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: He can do that in committee just as well.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: No, he cannot.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: This Bill comes to us from the House of Commons, and, as

I understand, there is at present plenty of time and there is no danger of the Bill being strangled, or delayed, or affected in any way that I can see, by allowing it to stand.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The reason I am desirous of having it passed is that the machinery is complex and the Act has to be put into operation overseas. It is necessary to print a very large number of copies of the Bill. It is necessary, in fact, to make provision at once to put it into operation so far as concerns the preliminary steps. My honourable friend will appreciate the necessity of that. That is the reason I do not want to delay the Bill. It is purely a matter of details; there is no principle involved except that of giving the military forces both in Canada and overseas the vote, and I fancy honourable gentlemen will not contest a principle so obviously fair as that.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I quite understand that we really adopted the principle of this Bill in 1915.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes. This Bill takes the place of the 1915 Act.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: As I understand it, the Bill is on similar lines, and differs only as to details from that adopted in 1915. I would probably have no objection to the House proceeding with it but that an honourable gentleman who spoke to me about it this afternoon told me he understood it was not to be taken up this evening. I do not want to obstruct.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Cannot the honourable gentleman speak to it in committee?

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I would prefer if the honourable leader of the Government could let it stand.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: Anything to delay.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: I would just like to suggest that if my honourable friend's (Hon. Mr. Bostock's) wishes are complied with, I think this side of the House would not object to the suspension of the rule, so that the Bill may be advanced a stage.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I do not see very much evidence of that. I have given notice for a suspension of the rules—

Hon. Mr. WATSON: I beg pardon. The honourable gentleman has done so.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: —and, as my honourable friend very well knows, we can carry that motion. I have avoided