

tion was made and the whip on this side went down to the hon. leader of the Opposition for confirmation of the proposition and came back with the arrangement made so far as it could be made between us, binding this side of the House most certainly, and binding, as I understand the other side of the House, and with the consent of my hon. friend who leads the third party, that we shall have a vote at the sitting commencing to-morrow afternoon. That is the understanding on this side and the members on this side, as I believe on the other, have been notified, and we propose to commence sitting to-morrow afternoon and to sit until a vote is taken.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If the arrangement has been made—and I accept the hon. gentleman's word for it—I suppose there is no help for it. But it strikes me that it will be very inconvenient to members on both sides. A very large number of members desire to speak, and, as the hon. gentleman knows, there will probably be two or three very long speeches delivered to-morrow.

Mr. FOSTER. We will have to make up our minds to hear them.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. But there is reason in all things. Wednesdays and Thursdays are not Government days, and there would be no inconvenience to the hon. gentleman, though there might be to individual members if the vote was taken on Wednesday or Thursday, and it would be very much more convenient to members of the House generally. Of course, if the arrangement is made and the Government choose to sit all to-morrow evening, I suppose there is nothing more to say. But I do not see what in the world the Government have to gain by it.

Mr. McMULLEN. I would remind the hon. Minister that there is some very important business to come before the Railway Committee on Wednesday.

Mr. FOSTER. That meets to-morrow.

Mr. McMULLEN. We also wanted to get a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee. We have not had a meeting for some time.

Mr. FOSTER. We are of opinion that this matter is of more importance than any meeting of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. McMULLEN. I think the people throughout the country appreciate the discussions that take place in the Public Accounts Committee.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Perhaps the hon. Minister will consider the matter and let us know definitely to-morrow at three o'clock.

Mr. FOSTER. I will do so. But there was so hard and fast an arrangement—

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If the arrangement is hard and fast, I have no

thing more to say, except that it will cause a great deal of inconvenience.

Mr. FOSTER. It will, but we are prepared to face that.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 17th March, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. LAURIER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I think it would not be unadvisable to call the attention of the hon. gentleman, and of the House, to the question with regard to the duration of this debate. There is an impression that the debate is to be closed at this sitting; but I venture to suggest that perhaps it would be unwise to bind ourselves to have a vote this sitting. I think, perhaps, we had better leave the question over until to-morrow.

Mr. FOSTER. In answer to my hon. friend, who was not here last night, I may say that in pursuance of an arrangement made before that time, I stated that the Government were disposed to try and get to a vote during to-day's sitting, some time afterwards, however, after some further conference with my hon. friend, and very largely because of a somewhat long, if not serious indisposition, of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), who I understand has a very important speech to make, and which the House no doubt will very much like to hear, I think that we will probably get along as well if we have an understanding now that we will sit to-day as long as possible, and that to-morrow's sitting shall see the vote upon both the amendment and the second reading. That, I believe, we can compass, and with that understanding I shall be glad to accede to the hon. gentleman's proposition.

Mr. LAURIER. I can bind this side of the House so far as this amendment is concerned, but I cannot bind this side of the House as to the second reading.

Mr. FOSTER. I must say that my understanding certainly was that both sides of the House should endeavour to have the vote, both on the amendment and the second reading, at this sitting. But with that understanding, we shall have to sit it out.

Mr. LAURIER. There is no desire on the part of this side of the House to obstruct a vote on the second reading.