

of St. John was represented by the late Hon. Isaac Burpee, it was decided to extend this breakwater running from the western shore of St. John harbour to Partridge island.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wish to bring before you the question of the irregularity of the present proceedings. I do not think the committee is properly constituted. There was no motion for the Speaker to leave the Chair. On every day except Thursday and Friday, the Speaker can only leave the Chair on motion put. The hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) rose to his feet and was desirous of making some remarks. Under the rule, the Speaker leaves the Chair without motion put on Thursdays and Fridays.

Mr. HAZEN: My understanding was that on Saturdays the same rule prevailed as on Fridays, and I think that will be found in the motion to take Saturdays.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The motion, which I have before me, reads that the order of precedence on Saturday shall be the same as on Fridays. That does not change the rule that on all days except Thursday and Friday the Speaker can only leave the Chair on motion put.

Mr. HAZEN: I have been proceeding on the idea that on Saturdays exactly the same procedure shall be followed as on Fridays.

Mr. PUGSLEY: My hon. friend will see how important it is.

Mr. HAZEN: Perhaps it would be well to get the Speaker's ruling.

Mr. PUGSLEY: That might be done.

Mr. HAZEN: We might pass the item and then report progress and obtain a ruling, without prejudice.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: But if the committee is not properly constituted, what would be gained by passing the item?

Mr. HAZEN: I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again this day.

Motion agreed to, and progress reported.

And the House having resumed.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Mr. Speaker, the occasion for the committee rising was that it might be clearly understood what is the proper course to be pursued on days other than Thursday or Friday. I raised the point that we could not go into Committee of Supply on Saturday without a motion put that you leave the chair. My

hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) said that he was under the impression that it was quite proper for us to go into Supply to-day without question put, and I think he was sustained in that view by the clerk assistant. The motion passed on the 22nd of June was as follows:

On motion of Sir Robert Borden, it was resolved, that on and after Saturday, the seventh of July, proximo, and on Saturdays until the end of the present session, the House shall meet at three o'clock in the afternoon; and the order of precedence on Saturdays shall be the same as on Fridays.

I maintain that that does not in any way affect the rule of the House that on Thursdays and Fridays you leave the chair without motion put, but on other days the motion must be put.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not in a position to give a reasoned opinion at the moment on the point of order raised by the hon. member for St. John. I left the chair, taking it for granted that the procedure on Saturdays would be precisely the same as upon Fridays, and under Rule 17C I left the chair without putting any question.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: If the motion of the Prime Minister had been that the procedure on Saturdays shall be the same as on Fridays there would be no difficulty, because the procedure on Fridays is that you leave the chair, Sir, without any question being put. But his motion was not as to the procedure, but as to the order of precedence. The motion simply provided that on Saturdays the same order of business should prevail as on Fridays. As a rule, the Government, at the beginning of a session, takes Tuesdays and Fridays, but on all other days the business of private members has precedence.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the point raised is one of considerable importance and requires careful consideration, I would prefer to take the matter under advisement and have time to give a reasoned opinion. At the moment, if pressed for a ruling, I would rule that I can leave the Chair on Saturdays without question put.

Mr. HAZEN: There is no disposition to press your Honour for a ruling at the moment. I think, without prejudice, we might by unanimous consent of the House go into Committee of Supply, and His Honour might be able to give his ruling on the point of order raised next Monday.