

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I would feel like straining a point, as far as it would be possible to go, to meet any view of the hon. gentleman from Bedford; but I really think that this would be asking us to go too far. The rule of parliament has been laid down very often that you cannot amend a private Bill by a public Bill.

The SPEAKER—It is a private Bill now.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—If so, it has not been based upon a petition.

The SPEAKER—Because the rules were suspended in the other House.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—One of our rules says that no rule concerning a petition can be suspended unless it is recommended by the Standing Orders Committee.

Hon. Mr. BAKER—If the Senate is unanimous, it has the power to suspend that rule, and there is this to be said of this Bill: although it is a private Bill it is introduced at the instance of the Department of Insurance. The Bill was drafted by the Superintendent of Insurance himself, and the object of it is to limit the powers of the Guarantee Company in mortgaging its property, for the protection of the insured. The Bill is commendable as coming from the vigilant Superintendent of Insurance, but I suggest that no great evil will probably arise before the next session of parliament. It was intended to get it through this session of parliament, but it is impossible to secure the suspension of the rules. As the promoter of the Bill which has already passed the Senate, I pledge myself, if my life is spared, to introduce a Bill anew, on the exact lines of this measure. In the meantime I ask that all rules of the Senate be suspended and that it be permitted to pass during the present session.

The SPEAKER—There is a rule which says that Bills coming from the House of Commons, when not preceded by petition, go, as a matter of course, to the Standing Committee on Standing Orders, and as this rule is not suspended, it will go to the Committee on Standing Orders.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—The motion of the hon. Secretary of State was special, that

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certain rules be suspended in a general way so far as they relate to Bills.

DELAY IN THE PUBLIC PRINTING

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY inquired :

1. Has the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, in compliance with section 15 of chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, ordered the immediate printing by the King's Printer of all the copies duly received of the electoral lists for use at Dominion elections ?
2. When were the electoral lists actually in force thus transmitted to the King's Printer ?
3. When were they printed ?
4. Did the King's Printer, immediately after the printing of such lists, transmit 20 copies thereof to the member representing each county of the Dominion, and 20 copies to each candidate defeated at the last elections ?
5. If all these obligations have not been fulfilled, is it because the law has been changed ?
6. And if the law has not been changed how can the infraction of it be justified or even explained ?
7. Is it the intention of the government to see immediately that the law which governs the matter shall be observed, and that copies of the electoral lists actually in force shall, without more delay, be sent to the persons who have a right thereto ?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—In reference to the voters' lists (questions 1 and 2) I have the following from the Clerk of the Crown of Chancery :

1. As soon as the lists of voters are received from the custodians, they are examined and counted and are then forwarded to the King's Printer, in accordance with section 15 of the Dominion Elections Act, and a receipt therefor is taken and filed in this office.

2. Answered by above.

The remaining questions refer to the King's Printer, and can be answered only by him.

In reply to the third question, they are transmitted when they come, and some are coming every month of the year. They are not printed. It costs nearly \$50,000 to print the lists, and they are only printed on the occasion of a by-election or on the eve of a general election. Question 4 is answered by the reply to No. 3. The reply to the fifth question is, No, the law is not changed. In reply to the sixth question, there was no election. It would be waste, because the lists are changed monthly. It is very hard to have them printed, even for