

some translators who are drawing salaries and who have not come up here yet to attend to their work? I have been told that is the case, and the names have been given to me.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not know of any.

Mr. S. HUGHES (North Victoria). I take the liberty of drawing the attention of the first minister to a cablegram which appeared in the papers last night in reference to the fact that Canadian beef is not allowed to be supplied to the British troops at the present time. I would suggest that when the papers are being brought down, that any data in connection with the army contracts in reference to the supply of Canadian beef may also be brought down at the same time.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like again to point out that the practice of going into Supply on Private Members' day has not been heretofore pursued during the sessions I have been in this House. Having regard to the fact that there are important government measures which have not been brought down yet, we must protest against departing from the rule which has prevailed during previous sessions. I do not at all wish to obstruct the business of the House, but at the same time I do not want to depart from customs which have been deemed good enough for us in the past, unless some special reason can be shown for that departure.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorcency). I would like to draw the attention of the House to this fact: We do not object at all to the business of the government proceeding; but there are a certain number of very important government Bills on the Order paper which might be proceeded with if the ministers were ready. There is one measure, for instance, in which a great many people, not only in this country, but in the United States and England, who hold Canadian patents, are interested. An Act has been prepared on the subject, but I humbly submit that it should have been ready for submission to the House on the very first days of the session. Some hon. gentlemen opposite know, the Minister of Justice and the hon. gentleman who represents the Minister of Agriculture, who is in charge of the Patent Department, must know, that the decision given by the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of *Power vs. Griffin*, has absolutely done away with jurisprudence with respect to an important section of the Patent Act. There are hundreds of patents affected by this decision, which was to the effect that no second extension of time can be given to people who have not imported their patented inventions into Canada during the time prescribed by law. Heretofore extensions of two years have been given from time to time, either by the Commissioner of Patents or by the assistant commissioner. The

decision of the Supreme Court has done away with that practice, and as a result has invalidated hundreds of patents. I believe, from an answer given to a question of mine by one of the ministers at the beginning of the session, that it is the intention of the government to introduce an Act not only to amend the Patent Act in this respect, but also to give a retroactive effect to the law—remedial legislation, in fact. This is an important question, and I humbly submit that the measure should be brought before the House and passed as soon as possible, in order to remedy the great evil which has been done to the holders of patents by the unexpected decision of the Supreme Court. I do not at all criticise that decision. It is probably right, but it is altogether at variance with the jurisprudence held on this subject ever since the late Dr. Taché gave a decision on the subject twenty years ago. There are other important Bills on the Order paper which could be dealt with if the government were ready. They are not ready; so that if we make any observation on the motion to go into Committee of Supply, it is not because we are not ready to look into the measures which the government have promised to bring before the House. All we say is that we are not prepared to go into supply now, because we have not been able, during the short time the House has been sitting, to read the reports which have been brought down since the opening of the session. For instance, it has been physically impossible for us to study the Auditor General's Report sufficiently to enable us to criticise with adequate knowledge the items as they come up. I do not think this is quite fair to this side of the House, as it does not afford us the opportunity of dealing with the items in the Supply Bill in the way we are entitled to do.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. W. S. Fielding). I do not think that any remarks implying that there is any lack of readiness on the part of the government to go on with the business of the House, are justifiable. I venture to say that there never has been a time, certainly not in recent years, when the business of the government has been more ready for the meeting of parliament. The public documents have been brought down with great promptness. There are more public documents and reports on the Table of the House to-day than is usual at this period. We are still at an early stage of the session, it is true; but if owing to the speedy disposal of questions and motions, or owing to delay in translation, which I think should not occur, because I think we should have officials enough to attend to that more promptly, but that is not the fault of the government—if for these various reasons we reached Government Orders early in the day, and did not proceed with business, the people would ask, what is parliament doing? The peo-

Mr. MONK.