

present, or some arrangement may be made to carry on the business.

HON. MR. MILLER—I presume there will be no objection to the second reading, on the understanding that the House is not committed to the principle of the Bill. This is a Government measure, and is in a different position from a private Bill. The second reading of a private Bill does not commit anybody to the principle of it.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZERS BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. SMITH moved the second reading of Bill (D), "An Act respecting Agricultural Fertilizers."

HON. MR. SCOTT—This is a Bill of nineteen clauses, which the House has not had an opportunity to read. I have no objection to its taking this stage, on the understanding that the House is not committed to the principle of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

The Senate ajourned at 3:35 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, February 6th, 1890.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

RECEPTION OF PETITIONS FOR DIVORCE.

The Order of the Day having been called for the reading of petitions,—

HON. MR. DICKEY said: Before these petitions are read, it is fit that I should call the attention of the House to the question which arose at our last sitting in reference to the reading of some four or five divorce petitions. My only object, I may say, in calling the attention of the House to the subject is to avoid taking a contradictory course in regard to precedents and

the mode of procedure of the Senate. It will be in the remembrance of the House that under the old rules there was a special procedure in divorce cases. One rule was that the petition should be presented in the usual way and, after one sitting day intervening, it should then be read and certain proof made at the bar of the Senate. Proof was required under the old rule, as under the new one, of the service of the notice of the proceedings on the person affected before the petition could be read or received. Every one who hears me, who remembers that mode of procedure, will recollect how excessively inconvenient it was. At all events, in the judgment of the Senate, it was desirable that a more convenient mode of procedure should be adopted, and the result was the establishment of the Divorce Committee, and rules which thereafter would be applicable to all divorce cases; and amongst these rules is one to which I shall call the attention of the House—the rule which governs this particular part of the proceedings. The House will remember that under the old mode of procedure the petition was read, after proof of the service of the notice to which I have referred had been made at the bar of the Senate. In April, 1888, a new mode of procedure was adopted, and Rule "I" is as follows:—

"The petition, when presented (1) shall be accompanied by the evidence of the publication of the notice (2) as required by Rule D, and by declaration in evidence of the service of a copy thereof as provided by Rule E, and by a copy of the proposed Bill; (3) The petition, notice, and evidence of publication and service, the proposed Bill, and all papers connected therewith, shall thereupon stand as referred, without special order to that effect, to 'The Select Committee on Divorce.'"

That appears to be perfectly plain. Then the next rule, "J," is as follows:—

"It shall be the duty of the committee to examine (1) the notice of application to Parliament, the petition, the proposed Bill, the evidence of publication and of the service of the copy of the said notice, and all other papers referred therewith, and if the said notice, petition and proposed Bill are found regular and sufficient, and due proof has been made of the publication and service of the said notice, the committee shall report the same to the Senate."

The committee report to the Senate whether the rules have been complied with, but the matter is still under the control of the House, because Rule "K" provides:—

"Upon the adoption of the report of the committee the Bill may be introduced and read a first time."