

session since the 21st of November. Yesterday concluded the seventy-second day of our sitting. How has that time been taken up? The first seven days were given up to the discussion of the Address, rather a limited time if we consider that in the past the discussion on the Address has often lasted for two or three weeks. The naval debate has occupied thirty-five sittings of the House and Supply eight days; government Bills have occupied seven days and there have been fifteen private members days, a total of seventy-two days. We can see here at a glance that the Government decided from the very beginning of the session, at least since the introduction of the Naval Bill early in December, that this House must first of all pronounce upon this great question which nobody would deny is the most important of all that we have had to deal with since confederation, since upon its solution will depend, in a large measure, our future relations with the Empire. It is all very well to say that this is a question of emergency but it also forms a precedent and a precedent will be used whenever opportunity may arise. The Government, therefore, has decided that the time of the House must primarily be taken up with this naval debate and it has allotted the time of the House as I have pointed out. Eight days have been given to Supply. The House and the country know that the Government has had no difficulty in obtaining Supply. The supplementary estimates for the past year were voted in a day or two and one-sixth the Supply for the present year was also voted. Therefore, on that ground, there is not the faintest suspicion that there was anything like obstruction intended or practised in this House during the present session.

The Order Paper as we have it to-day is deserving of close attention. We find, first of all, that after routine proceedings there are six government Bills still on the Order Paper that have not been introduced. These are as follows:

February 11. Bill to amend the Fisheries Act.—Mr. Hazen.

March 3. Bill to amend the Dominion police Act.—Mr. Doherty.

March 27. Bill to amend the Supreme Court Act.—Mr. Doherty.

March 27. Bill to provide for further advances to the Quebec Harbour Commissioners.—Mr. Hazen.

March 31. Bill relating to Parcel Post.—Mr. Pelletier.

March 31. Bill to provide for more advantageous conditions for telegraphic communications between Canada, the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire.—Mr. Pelletier.

Under rule 31 the Government have the right to call any government business standing on the Order Paper in whatever order they choose. Exercising that discre-

tion, they have decided that this naval debate shall occupy the attention of the House to the exclusion of all other items of government business on the Order Paper. On the second page we have a government order standing in the name of the Minister of Justice since the 4th of April which has not been proceeded with, with regard to the salary of the registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada. But on the Orders of the Day proper we have still a most extraordinary state of affairs. The first government order is: 'Third reading of Bill No. 28, respecting an agreement between Canada and certain of the West Indian Colonies.—Mr. Foster (Toronto).—' which has been standing in the name of the Minister of Trade and Commerce since January 24 last. This Bill has not been called for third reading. No explanation has been given except a reference made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. White) to the effect that this agreement had something to do with the budget and that the budget could not very well be brought down until this Bill was disposed of or something to that effect. Then there has been on the Order Paper since February 14 last: 'Third reading of Bill No. 35, to amend the Customs and Fisheries Protection Act—Mr. Hazen.' The House has not been in Committee of Supply since the 1st of April, and no attempt has been made to obtain Supply of any kind since then. Item 4 refers to Ways and Means. No. 5 is an item which has been there since February 18: 'House in committee on Bill No. 26, an Act respecting Radio-Telegraphy,' standing in the name of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Item No. 6 has been there since April 8: 'House again in committee on Bill No. 21, an Act to authorize measures for increasing the effective naval forces of the Empire,' standing in the name of the Prime Minister. Item No. 7 has been there since March 3: 'Consideration of amendments made by the Senate to Bill 84, an Act to amend the Exchequer Court Act,' which stands in the name of the Minister of Justice. Item No. 8 has been there since December 6: 'Second reading of Bill No. 25, an Act to amend the Intercolonial and Prince Edward Island Railway Employees, Provident Fund Act,' standing in the name of the Minister of Railways. Since December 10 a most important question has stood on the Order Paper in the shape of a resolution:

That it is expedient to provide for two additional members of the Senate from each of the provinces of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, and for three additional members of the Senate from the province of British Columbia.

That resolution stands in the name of the Prime Minister. Since December 11, there has stood on the Order Paper another important question: 'Sec-