

in the report itself, and it is hardly worth while going into this discussion. As chairman of the committee I never shirk any work, and on behalf of my fellow members, I must object to asking them to entertain a subject which they have already considered at some length, and which the House has disposed of. I ask the opinion of the leader of the House on this question, because it concerns the practice of the Senate, and, in my opinion, it would be most unwise to reopen the matter.

HON. MR. SANFORD—I cannot agree with the views presented by the last speaker. The facts are these: The promoter of that Bill had not the opportunity of stating his case to the committee. Those who were opposed to it ventilated their views very freely, and the committee were necessarily biased in the report that they brought in. Surely when the promoter of the Bill was unavoidably detained, had not an opportunity of stating his case, hon. gentlemen will permit the Bill to be referred back to the committee to allow him to state his views with regard to it. It is only a matter of justice and fair play. I certainly hope that the motion that the Bill be restored to the Order Paper be favorably considered by the House.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—It seems to me we have nothing before us; as that report has been confirmed we cannot send it back to the committee. The House has no longer possession of the Bill, and I do not see how we can revive it. I think it would be establishing a bad precedent if the motion of my hon. friend should be adopted. If we create such a precedent we will find persons at all stages of legislation asking that Bills be referred back to committee.

The motion was declared lost on a division.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SENATE.

MOTION POSTPONED.

The Order of the Day having been called,—

That an humble Address be presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty; praying for the amendment of the British North America Act, so that Senators shall, henceforward, as their seats become vacant, be appointed by Provincial Legislatures, the Crown to retain the right to the appointment of three or six additional Senators, as now exists under the Constitution.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (Cape Breton)—in the absence of Mr. POIRIER—moved that the Order of the Day be discharged, and that it stand as an order for Wednesday next.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I think we are getting into a very vicious habit in this House of allowing gentlemen who place motions on the Order Paper to postpone them from time to time, sometimes for a month. A Bill must be either withdrawn or postponed in a certain way, and to allow notice of a motion of this kind to be given for a certain day, so that gentlemen may be prepared to discuss it on a certain day and vote upon it, is not in the public interest, and the House should not be treated in such a cavalier manner.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not know that there is any limit to the will of the House in these matters. The House has a right, if it choose, to allow any hon. gentleman who puts a motion on the Paper to postpone its discussion, and I think I and others in the House are quite as much to blame, if there is blame anywhere, as the hon. gentleman in whose name the motion stands. The question is one of no inconsiderable importance, and every hon. gentleman has a right to bring up such questions and have them discussed, and in the present instance I know that several members of the House are desirous of speaking on this motion, and they thought the time fixed by the hon. gentleman was rather too short. It is at the request of several members of the Senate, amongst them myself, that this notice is postponed. I saw the hon. gentleman this morning, and suggested next Wednesday for his motion, and I understood him to agree to it, as we have the Promissory Notes Bill and the North-West Bill on Tuesday.

The motion was agreed to, and the Order of the Day was discharged.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill (129) "An Act to amend the Exchequer Court Act."

The Senate adjourned at 4 p. m.