

regarding moving the adjournment, with the exception that a motion to adjourn may be made for the purpose of discussing a question of importance and urgency. When we come to the rule the House will better understand what it is. It is very clear and comprehensive, and simply a repetition of the English rule. A third new rule is that on Wednesdays the House, instead of meeting at 3 p.m., will meet at 1 o'clock and adjourn at six until the next day. In this we are following the English rule. At present the five days of the week are absorbed by parliamentary duties, and members have no opportunity to discharge other duties also important. The fourth exception is with regard to private Bills. The practice with regard to private Bills has been that the rules we have had have been more honoured in the breach than in the performance. The rules that we have to offer to the House are intended to meet the deficiency and compel, as far as practicable, parties who have private legislation to come within the rules and to conform to them.

Mr. SPROULE. I was speaking to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) on Saturday and, speaking for myself only, I think that it would be inadvisable to take up these rules at this stage of the session. I notice that in twenty-six of the important rules you are making changes and there are some sixteen more that are changed as well but these changes are not important. That means a large number that would have to be carefully considered and possibly if we do it properly it would take a long time. Many other rules will suggest themselves to members during the discussion. No harm can be done by postponing it until next session.

Mr. FOSTER. What does the First Minister think of that?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I would like to have some expression of opinion from the members. For my part I think we might dispose of them to-day. The changes are not material. Except the four I have mentioned, they are merely verbal, and I think it would be well to have these rules ready for next session.

Mr. SPROULE. There are one hundred and twenty-five.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There are only four important changes, as I have said.

Mr. SPROULE. It says here there are important changes to twenty-six.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think we had better go on.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not think the changes, outside the one relating to the motion to adjourn and the others which the Prime Minister has mentioned, would be regarded as very important by most of the members. As far as I am personally con-

cerned I would like to see them adopted this session, but at the same time if there is any strong feeling on the part of members of the House who are not members of the committee that there should be more careful consideration than can be given this session, I would not object; I do not think if we went into the rules we would find the changes of any importance except those mentioned by the Prime Minister.

Mr. FISHER. Unless there is serious exception to these important changes it would be unfortunate if we did not adopt this report this session and let these rules come into force next session. I think there has been a very strong disposition among the members that the rules require revision. The committee entrusted with this work was very carefully chosen of men perhaps more especially qualified to deal with this subject than the ordinary members, and while personally I followed their work a little, I have felt they were better qualified to deal with the rules of the House than I was or most of us are, and when we get the results of very considerable deliberation on the part of this committee and they discover only three or four important changes, I think it is an evidence that they have done their work well, and that unless there is a serious exception taken to any of the important changes, in which case there should be full discussion, I would be very sorry indeed if the rules were not adopted this session so they might come into force the ensuing session.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think anything would break or be materially injured if this should stand over until November. I know the committee was a good one and that the results of its deliberations deserve all weight, but the revision of the rules is an important matter and at this stage of the session a very considerable number of the members are absent. The rules if they are to be observed should receive the assent of the members very generally and it might be just as well to allow this to be taken up at the beginning of the next session when we generally have a week or ten days of not very active work but when the members are here. That would give an opportunity for some looking up of the subject during the holidays, on the part of the busy members of the House particularly who do not have much time to follow the deliberations of committees. I think it will be found that there is considerable difference of opinion on one or two of these rules and a considerable discussion will take place. We have not very many hours of the session left and some of these important changes are worthy of consideration, so I think the suggestion of the hon. member for East Grey is worthy of consideration.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not take the same view as my hon. friend (Mr.