

before he did so: it was on the 25th January that the Committee reported, but it was not till the 8th of February that any notice of this motion appeared on the paper at all, and then the notice was not for the following Monday (the private day, when there would have been an opportunity to make it), but for the following Tuesday, a Government day, when, the hon. Gentleman well knew, the notice could not be reached. [Mr. MERRICK—Hear, hear!] The hon. gentleman says "Hear, hear!" as if gratified at how completely the merit and worth of this scheme to delay this motion is recognized. He (Mr. Fraser) had pointed out that if there was a step in the wrong direction to be taken, the hon. gentleman had taken it; and perhaps he (Mr. Merrick) would have an opportunity to say "Hear, hear," again. Not only, however, did the hon. gentleman put his notice on the paper for a Government day, but he allowed several days, on which he could have made his motion, to go by. He had two opportunities during that week to have his motion up, and the sense of the House taken as to whether or not this Bill should be sent before the Private Bills Committee, but he delayed until at length the last day on which the Private Bills Committee could regularly report upon any Bill was passed by. In fact, if it were not for the object which the hon. gentleman had in view, one could well have charged that the rules of the House had been contemptuously ignored in every respect. [Hear, hear, and cheers.] As matters stood now, there would be no possibility of having the Bill brought before the Private Bills Committee, even if the hon. gentleman's motion were carried. The hon. gentleman knew that his motion was not sufficient for that. He would require still to make another motion, and then he would further require to have his Bill printed and distributed to the members; after that, and before it could be considered in any shape by the Private Bills Committee, it must be posted in the lobby for five days. But before that could be done, lo and behold! the House would have risen—it would have been prorogued, and what the hon. gentleman's political leaders at Ottawa most desired would have been accomplished: the Bill would have been ousted without discussion.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE—Does the Private Bills Committee sit until now?

Mr. FRASER said that was a query; but even if they could sit, their regular time for reporting had gone by; and if this motion were carried, another irregular motion would have to be made on the top of it. In his (Mr. Fraser's) simplicity, it occurred to him that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Merrick) was asking from this House entirely too much (Hear, hear), and was asking it in the prayer-

ful hope of himself and his friends that it would not be granted. (Laughter.)

Mr. MERRICK said he had offered to produce the local paper to the Standing Orders Committee.

Mr. FRASER—The Committee did not so state in the report, and the hon. gentleman had heard the report read and adopted, and did not take any objection to it. He (Mr. Merrick) produced himself in *propria persona* before the Committee, and the hon. gentleman himself was the only notice of the Bill which the Committee had seen. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Political Engineering.

All this, however, went to prove what he (Mr. Fraser) had started out with; viz., that what was said before the House met was true—that for political purposes, and political purposes only, in view of the next general election, hon. gentlemen had thought it well to keep in the background this particular Bill. Had not the hon. gentleman himself stated to the House during the debate on the address—on the second day of the session—that the intention to introduce this Bill in the present session had been abandoned by the Grand Lodges, because they had been disappointed in the procuring of some petitions which they had intended to present from constituents of hon. gentlemen supporting the Government—that these petitions not being circulated in time to present to the House, it was not his purpose to introduce the Bill? In view of all the circumstances, he (Mr. Fraser) felt he was quite justified in saying that the hon. gentleman was between the devil and the deep sea, and being forced onward, he was driven to making an appearance of attempting to satisfy the brethren of the subordinate lodges; but meanwhile he (Mr. Merrick) took care to fortify himself with frequent and persistent delays and an entire disregard of the rules regulating the procedure of the House. He (Mr. Fraser) wondered what the hon. gentleman would be able to say, in answer for his neglect, to his brethren in the lodges. (Hear, hear.) Leaving this question of irregularities, he (Mr. Fraser) hoped the House would bear with him a little further. When he addressed the last Parliament of Ontario upon this measure, he charged this organization with being an

OATH-BOUND POLITICO-RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION,

(Hear, hear,) citing the statements of Sir Robert Peel and others, whose authority was beyond dispute, in support of the standpoint from which he then ventured to address the House. He did not purpose to adduce the same authority to-night. His challenge and his assertion on that occasion

were made before the House was closed, and the religious time after the meeting of the House was over, and the representatives of the various organizations across the country were not present. He did not contain any of the papers at which he furnished the political organization.

Mr. M.

Mr. F. able friends. They were secret papers of the political of hon. that, her to be lodges so that the Province

SUPPORT:

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