

CONSOLIDATION OF DOMINION STATUTES.

MOTION POSTPONED.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I desire to postpone the motion of which I have given notice that the report of the Commissioners appointed to consolidate and revise the Statutes of the Dominion be referred to a select committee, to consist of the Hon. Messieurs Dickey, Gowan, Lacoste, Pelletier, Power, Scott, and the mover, and that the said committee be empowered to act on behalf of the Senate in any joint committee of the two Houses on the same subject should the House of Commons agree to the creation of such joint committee. I desire to postpone that motion for some time, because the statutes have not been distributed yet very fairly, and more time I think is desirable for the consideration of the report which it is proposed, by the notice of motion, to refer to a select committee; but I desire in doing so, to ask the House to allow me to add some names to the committee. The names of Mr. Odell, Mr. Trudel, Mr. Girard, and some others, which, if the House will permit me, I will hand in to the Clerk. The idea will be, that I shall endeavor to get each province represented on the committee.

The motion was agreed to and the order of the day was discharged.

LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE.

MOTION POSTPONED.

The order of the day having been called :—

That he (Mr. Plumb) will ask the Government to encourage the initiation of Private Bills in this House, with a view to the more equal division of the labors of the two branches in the earlier period of the Session, and that he will also ask the Government to originate in this House as many measures as the law and usages of Parliament will permit in order that this House may more adequately fill its place in the Constitution.

HON. MR. PLUMB said: some papers will have to be prepared in connection with this motion, and by my own desire and on the suggestion of my hon. friend

the leader of the Government, I would ask to have the motion postponed until Thursday week.

HON. MR. POWER—Now that the hon. gentleman has postponed this matter, I wish to call his attention and the attention of the House to what strikes me as being a somewhat serious irregularity in the notice which he has given. There are three modes by which a member of this House can bring his views before Parliament—he can simply make an enquiry for information and get an answer from the Government: he can call attention to a matter and conclude by an enquiry, and he can move for papers or a committee or anything of that sort. Although the hon. gentleman from Niagara has put his notice in the form of an enquiry it is really not an enquiry but a request. The hon. gentleman does not ask for information; he asks the Government to encourage a certain course which he suggests; and I wish to call the attention of the House and of that hon. gentleman in particular to the fact that we have never had an instance of this kind before, and it is in the judgment of the House to say whether it is not irregular, and whether the proper mode would not be that the hon. gentleman should call the attention of the House to the fact that very few Private Bills are introduced here, although we have time to attend to them; but to ask the Government to do so is manifestly irregular.

THE SPEAKER—The hon. gentleman will have time to modify his motion between now and the time mentioned, if he thinks proper. There is something in the objection raised by the hon. member from Halifax. As he stated, there are two ways of bringing this up before the House, either by enquiry or by motion. On a simple enquiry on a subject, a debate of an extended character is not permitted, but under the practice prevailing in the House of Lords, which was introduced in this branch of the Legislature first by the hon. Minister of the Interior, the practice was adopted whereby in giving notice that a member would call the attention of the Government to a certain subject and ask information thereon, a general discussion was permitted. I have no doubt that that