

favour of letting the draft stand over for consideration until the beginning of next session. I may say that that was rather my own inclination. It is desirable to make our rules as nearly perfect as possible and probably after the consideration which may be given by hon. gentlemen to this draft during the recess, next session they will be made more nearly perfect than these rules are as submitted. I move that the consideration of the draft be postponed until the next session of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY—In reference to what has fallen from the hon. member from Ottawa, about the presentation of a petition, there is no alteration made in the rules with regard to that. It remains as it has always been. There has been a question about it. I remember well Sir Alexander Campbell stated as his opinion that the rules as they stand and as the draft stands would require a petition for every private Bill to be presented to this House, no matter whether the Bill originated in the House of Commons or not. I was of a different opinion, but we both agreed that it was very desirable that there should be a petition, for the reasons which have been given by the leader of the House to-day.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The rule of the House of Commons is the same as our rule. If a petition has been presented to the House of Commons, and the House of Commons has considered the petition and has passed the Bill through all its stages, I doubt very much whether we have the constitutional right to refuse to deal with that Bill. I doubt if we have the right to alter that rule so as to require a petition to be presented to this House.

Hon. Mr. BOTSFORD—I was chairman of a committee appointed to revise the rules some years ago, and I know the difficulty of making any alterations. It is very difficult in a hurried way to put the true value on the construction of any rule that might be made. At that time copies of the rules were furnished to every hon. member, and an opportunity was given to consider them thoroughly. Some changes were proposed, but not so many as have been suggested by the committee this session. I should like to consider thoroughly the bearing of these

rules, and therefore I hope the consideration of them will be postponed until next session.

The motion was agreed to.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The Order of the Day being called, Committee of the whole House on Bill (27), "An Act to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act."

Hon. Mr. BOWELL said:—This Bill is of some importance, and I may add that it is not the Bill that I thought it was that was reported from the House of Commons this morning. When I moved the suspension of the Rules this morning I thought it was the Bill regulating the insurance of the civil servants. The Bill before the House is one changing materially the laws regulating the superannuation of civil servants, and consequently is somewhat more important than the other. The measure has been fully discussed in the other House, and I am not sure whether the members of the Senate have read the debate attentively. If they have, it will relieve me in a great measure from the necessity of referring to it at any length. Should members of the Senate require it, I shall try to answer such questions as may suggest themselves in the progress of the Bill through Committee. The object of the measure is to try, as near as possible, to make the fund out of which the superannuation is paid self-sustaining. At present the charge upon the consolidated revenue of the country is much larger than the Government think it ought to be, and the civil servants who profit by it could submit to a larger deduction annually in order to make the difference between the amount paid out and that which is contributed to the revenue from these abatements less onerous than at present. I may add that while the proposition to increase the amount paid by civil servants each year, another short Bill is introduced which is a corollary to the one now before the House, and which practically forms part of it, providing a very cheap rate of insurance for the civil servants. The Government do not propose to enter into a general business of insurance, but they confine it exclusively to the employees of the Crown. I make that statement in order that there may be no