

after the same are prepared, and that no unnecessary delay should be permitted to interfere with the issuing of the same.

That the Finance Department cause to be inserted in the *Canada Gazette* at the close of each month a statement of revenue and expenditure for the month, and also for the unexpired portion of the fiscal year, distinguishing between expenditure upon capital account and expenditure on account of Consolidated Fund, and giving statement of gross debt and net debt.

That the Customs Department cause to be inserted in the *Canada Gazette* at the close of each month a statement of exports, of imports, of immigration and of navigation for the month, and also for the unexpired portion of the fiscal year.

That the Department of Railways cause to be inserted in the *Canada Gazette* each week a statement showing the gross and the net earnings of each of the Government railways for the preceding week, and also for the unexpired portion of the fiscal year.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I would ask that this be allowed to stand over in order that we may see whether it is necessary there should be some legislation. Looking at the Act, I do not think there is, and that the resolutions can be adopted as they are. I would suggest, however, that the word "rule" should be altered to "practice" in the first line. I do not think there is any rule.

Mr. CHARLTON. I have no objection, and I would ask also that the word "unexpired" which is a clerical error should be changed to "expired."

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

#### DEPUTY SPEAKERSHIP.

Mr. FISHER moved :

To rescind the Standing Orders respecting the election, at the commencement of every Parliament, of a Deputy Speaker and Chairman of committees.

He said: In moving for this change, I do not wish to deprive you, Sir, of that relief which, no doubt, is necessary for anybody who fills the position you occupy in this House. But, Sir, I take it for granted that you intend to follow the example of your predecessor, not only in the fairness and impartiality with which that hon. gentleman performed his duties as our Speaker, but also in the assiduity, the close attention, he gave to those duties, and by which he earned the respect and confidence of every gentleman who had then the honor of a seat in Parliament. I take it for granted you, Sir, will not call upon your deputy, should you have one, very frequently to occupy your position. During the short experience I have had in Parliament, both before and after the Deputy Speaker was elected by this House, I did not perceive that the Speaker on many occasions or for any long time, was forced to call on the Deputy to take his place in the Chair. In fact, from what I saw during the two years we had a Deputy Speaker, the chief duty that devolved on him was to act as the Chairman of our Committees, and not as the Speaker in the Chair. This being the case, I am sure, Sir, you will relieve me of the imputation of any desire to prevent your having that relief which I am sure is necessary to one charged with the onerous duties you have to perform. I feel that in making this motion I may, perhaps, count on the support of the Ministry of the day. Although coming from an humble member of the Opposition, I find that this motion has, if not by the direct action of the Ministry of the day, at all events, by their inaction, obtained a certain amount of endorsement and support. What says the Standing Order? I will not attempt to read the whole of it:

"That the House do elect a Chairman of Committees of this House at the commencement of every Parliament, as soon as the Address has been agreed to in answer to His Excellency's speech."

Now, we have been some three weeks since the opening of Parliament. I think it is about three weeks since the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was agreed to, yet I find that the hon. gentlemen who are responsible for the conduct of business in the House, have not seen fit to take the initiative, which belongs to them, in proposing

Mr. CHARLTON.

the name of an hon. member to occupy the position of Deputy Speaker. I do not know why this has not been done, but am almost disposed to hope the Government have thus been inactive through a desire to accept, if not to support, the proposition I have put before the House. There are a good many reasons why it is not necessary we should have a Deputy Speaker. This country, we all know, is subject to very heavy charges in the annual expenditure, charges which are in a great degree due to the effect of the multiplication of officers and the large salaries paid to the various officers connected with the Civil Government. I believe that the only justification that can exist for the multiplication of these offices, or for our continuing their existence, is paramount necessity, and I do not consider that in this case there is any such paramount or absolute necessity. For a long time, I think for about eighteen years, the Dominion Parliament did not feel the necessity for this office, and the Ministers of the day did not think it necessary to adopt this procedure. In my own short experience, it was my good fortune to sit here for two years during which we had no Deputy Speaker, and I have sat here since that officer has been introduced. I confess that, from what little I saw of the proceedings of this House before the office was created, and from what I have seen since, I have not been led to believe that this was a necessary innovation. The Deputy Speaker's duties, as I have already said, are chiefly those of Chairman of Committees. In fact, he is called Chairman of Committees in the Standing Order. Ever since the Parliament of Canada has been in existence, it has been the custom to call upon one of the members of the House to act as Chairman of Ways and Means and Supply, and I believe there is a concurrence of all who are acquainted with the mode of parliamentary procedure that this custom is a right one, that one gentleman who is accustomed to the work should be asked to carry on that committee; but there are other committees in which it is usual to call upon other experienced members of the House to act as chairman, and I do not think there has been any difficulty in finding members capable of performing the duty. This being the case, it is evident that our business can be carried on perfectly well without this new salaried officer. For eighteen years, we were able to get on very well without him, and this Session of Parliament is now three weeks old, and we have been able so far to get on without this officer. It may be said that up to this time the House has hardly been in Committee of the Whole, but, if it is necessary that we should have a Chairman of Committees, it is not therefore necessary that he should be Deputy Speaker or should have the power and authority which the Deputy Speaker has. Judging from the short experience we have had of this official and of the gentleman who occupied the position in the last Parliament, it is better, in my judgment at all events, that the same gentlemen should not be continually harassed by being continually called upon to occupy this position. We know it is an onerous position. We know that often the committee sits for a length of time, and that the one who is called upon constantly and continuously to fulfil this duty has a much more onerous task than anyone would have when the duty is divided up, as it used to be, among the experienced members of this House. If you, Mr. Speaker, are able to call upon one gentleman at one time when the House goes into committee, and a few minutes afterwards, or an hour or two afterwards, to call upon another gentleman to occupy that responsible position, it is less likely that one member would be exhausted by the work or would feel the onerousness of this duty. Without wishing to reflect upon the hon. member who occupied the position in the last Parliament, who certainly devoted great attention to his duties and displayed great consideration in the fulfilment of those duties, still those who were present, as I was, during the long debates of the Session when the