

Mr. SCRIVER. It is a resolution that the Government be asked to appropriate.

Mr. SPEAKER. This is the recommendation :—

"That the Government be requested to ask for an appropriation of \$2,000 for the purpose of purchasing 300 copies'—

Motion agreed to, and Report concurred in.

SUSPENSION OF RULE.

Mr. CAMERON (Victoria) moved that the 51st Rule of this House be suspended in so far as it affects the petition of the Winnipeg and Hudson's Bay Railway and Steamship Company, in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Motion agreed to.

BILL INTRODUCED.

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time :—

Bill (No. 131) to amend an Act to incorporate the Winnipeg and Hudson's Bay Railway and Steamship Company.— (Mr. Cameron, Victoria.)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. WHITE. (Hastings). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would ask the time of the House for five minutes, and I regret to do so at this stage of the Session, because I know that all members are anxious to get through with the business. In the Committee a few days ago I made a joke with an hon. gentleman, and I regret it. It is reported in the Montreal *Herald* as follows :—

"Mr. WHITE. They pay me for supporting Bills, and perhaps they do not think you worth paying."

Mr. Speaker, I do not care for the remarks made by the reporter in sending a report to the *Herald*, but the Montreal *Gazette* commented on it, and in addition to that there is a long editorial, and then the Hamilton *Times* said a little on the matter. I believe there was not a single member in the Committee on that day but was satisfied it was only a joke, and that I did not intend to hurt the feelings of the hon. gentleman; and I am sure that the members of this House will believe me when I say that, if there was a particle of truth in it, I would not repeat it. I think, Mr. Speaker, that all the members of the House—and I know it by the laughter with which they have accepted that remark—know that I am cunning enough not to make that open confession and acknowledgment. If I got any advantages from the Grand Trunk Railway or any other company I would know enough to keep my mouth shut. Now, Mr. Speaker, without solicitation from any party, I have received the following telegram :—

"MONTREAL, 31st March, 1884.

'To JOHN WHITE, M.P.

"Am confined to my house by sickness and would have written you Saturday. You certainly have never sought or received any compensation or consideration in any shape or manner whatsoever from this Company, either in connection with its legislation at Ottawa or any other account. Will send letter to-day.

"Yours truly,
"W. WAINRIGHT."

Now, the agent here in Ottawa sends the following :—

"OTTAWA, 31st March, 1884.

"To JOHN WHITE, Esq., M.P.

"DEAR SIR,—I beg to certify that I have known you about 14 years, that I have never known you to travel on a free pass, that you have always purchased tickets at this office, paying for them at the same rates as were charged to other members of Parliament.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"A. H. TAYLOR,
"Agent, G. T. R."

Mr. Speaker, I hope the *Herald* newspaper, or at least its reporter, will have the kindness to give this denial, and publish this short telegram and this short letter from the agent here in Ottawa, and that the Hamilton *Times*, and the Belleville *Ontario*, will do the same, as they are the only other papers that have referred to this matter. It has been said that I own a foundry, and my brother owns the other half, and that we have received favours from the Grand Trunk Railway; but I say positively from my seat in Parliament that neither directly nor indirectly has the Grand Trunk Railway Company ever carried one pound of freight for me without my paying the outside farthing for doing so. I have never, directly nor indirectly, received, nor have I been offered, from the Grand Trunk Railway Company, or any other railway company, anything to promote or assist in any shape or manner any Bills before this honourable House. Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the hon. gentleman, if he feels that I intended to hinder him at all, will accept my apology when I say that I did not intend to do it. I have been told that the hon. gentleman has a difficulty with the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Well, if he has it is not my business; that is the business of the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell), and I have nothing to do with it. He has a perfect right to find fault with those who oppose their Bills. If there has been any business transaction between them, it is not my duty to interfere. I hope and trust that the hon. members of this House will accept this acknowledgment of the mistake I made, and that they will believe me when I state that the remark was only made by way of a joke. There were some members of the Committee close by me who have known me for a good many years. The hon. members for Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver) and Halton (Mr. McCraney) know me well. The hon. member for Huntingdon and myself entered this House together, if I mistake not, fourteen years ago; the hon. member for Halton has been in and out with me during that time. I was opposite them in the Committee, and I am satisfied those hon. gentlemen will bear me out in saying that I spoke by way of joke, and I regret I made the joke.

Mr. MITCHELL. Although I am the person pointed out by my hon. friend, and the person to whom the remark was made, I must say, that though his words were coupled with rather a slighting remark to myself at the time I was in the Committee, it affords me the greatest pleasure to know that the hon. gentleman spoke in joke. I thought, at the time that the remark was indiscreet, and I hoped the hon. gentleman would have corrected it after he made it; but even at this late day it affords me much pleasure to accept the explanation, and to know that there was no foundation whatever for the charge which has been based upon the remarks the hon. gentleman then made.

Mr. SCRIVER. As the hon. gentleman referred to me, I would simply say that I was present at the meeting of Committee at which he made the remark to which he has referred, and I certainly understood it, as I believe every member of the Committee present on that occasion understood it, to have been made in a purely jocular sense.

PUBLIC BUSINESS—THE FACTORY BILL.

Mr. BLAKE. Before the Orders of the Day are called I would like to ask whether the Government are in a position to say whether they intend to prosecute the Factory Bill this Session or not. I had supposed it would have been proceeded with early, as we have been told from day to day that it would be taken from day to day. It is a measure to which a good deal of interest attaches on the part of two classes, the manufacturers and the employes, and representations have been made upon it. I have no doubt many