

Wednesday, March 12, 1919,

The House met at Two o'clock.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

SPECIAL ORDER LAPSED—MOTION FOR ITS REINSTATEMENT.

Sir THOMAS WHITE (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, owing to the want of a quorum in the House last evening the debate on the special Order of the Day which was then under discussion has lapsed, and it becomes necessary to restore it to the Order Paper by motion. Therefore, I beg to move, seconded by Mr. Carvell:

That the special Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Redman for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, having lapsed by reason of the House having been declared adjourned for want of a quorum on the 11th instant, when the said order was under consideration, be revived and placed on the Order Paper for consideration this day.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE (Cape Breton North): Mr. Speaker, under the ruling of your honour of 3rd of July—

Mr. SPEAKER: I presume the hon. member rises to discuss the point of order.

Mr. McKENZIE: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion itself is not debatable.

Mr. McKENZIE: I know that your honour has ruled that this motion is not debatable, but I presume the acting leader of the Government is moving under Order No. 41,—that is, that a motion without notice can be introduced by the unanimous leave of the House. As I understand that, Mr. Speaker, it means that the Acting Prime Minister, or any person moving as he is moving, must move for leave to make a motion by unanimous consent of the House. If Order No. 41 does not mean that, I do not understand that it has any meaning at all. If an hon. member makes a motion that requires unanimity of the House, he must first obtain the consent of the House.

I further wish to say that the Order of the Day fixed by rule 25 of the Rules and Proceedings governing this House has set for to-day a certain procedure; and before the hon. Acting Prime Minister can move his motion he should move the suspension of Rule No. 25, so as to give him the right of way to make this motion. Unless some provision is made for it, we must go through the whole procedure before we reach the Order of the Day with respect to which this motion comes into effect. These are my

[The Deputy Speaker.]

objections. I am not taking objection to the main motion, but merely to the way in which it is moved. I will not discuss the motion, but I am sorry that as one of the fruits of continuous Orders in Council, hon. gentlemen supporting the Government do not think it necessary to be in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Whatever weight may be attached to the point raised by the hon. leader of the Opposition (Mr. McKenzie), that point is one which was settled when a decision was given under similar circumstances two years ago. It so happened that the present incumbent of the Chair rendered that decision; nevertheless it is binding until the House sees fit to alter his judgment on the matter. It only remains for me to follow that decision, which was that it was competent for the motion to be submitted and, if agreed to, that a debate which has lapsed by reason of lack of a quorum may be restored in all respects to the position which it occupied prior to its lapse.

Upon the second point raised by the leader of the Opposition, I would refer him to the fact that at the opening of the session on the 20th day of February, there was passed a motion by which it was ordered that the speech of His Excellency the Governor General should be taken into consideration the following Tuesday; this Order to have precedence over all other business except the introduction of Bills. If the motion which is now submitted by the acting leader of the Government carries, my judgment is that it places the debate in precisely the same position as if it had not lapsed. That the motion is quite in order, and if it be adopted by the House we shall proceed with the adjourned debate as the first Order of the Day.

Motion agreed to.

REPORTS AND PAPERS.

The Civil Service List.—Hon. Mr. Burrell.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. CHARLES MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, and in view of the interference with the printing of Parliament caused by the strike at the Printing Bureau, I desire to ask the Government what progress has been made towards a settlement of the strike, and, pending a settlement, what arrangements have been made for the printing of the daily Hansard, the Votes and Proceedings, and the Orders of the Day.