

modified so he would not favor the striking out of the clause.

Hon. Mr. REESOR said that in reference to the strong objection made to the clause by the hon. member from P. E. Island (Mr. Howlan), at the last meeting of the Committee, he found that in its law on this subject, a precisely similar provision existed. He was sorry that hon. gentleman was not in his place to hear that the clause of the Island statute was substantially the same as the present; and so far from that law pressing hardly upon the proprietor or publisher of a paper in which a libel appeared, without his knowledge or consent, and when he had used due care and caution to prevent such an injury, the Island Legislature had abolished the feature of criminality altogether. By the last clause of its Act, it was provided that "Proceedings by criminal information for libel are hereby abolished." So there the practice and the law were even more liberal than what was proposed by this bill. He contended the publisher was entitled to, at least, this amount of protection, and that there was no wrong in not holding the publisher criminally liable for libels which others might have slipped into his paper. The 99 in the 100, this majority being outsiders and not publishers, could be proceeded against criminally as well as other perpetrators of criminal acts. Under all other circumstances men were exempt from responsibility for criminal acts done without their privity or consent. The actual offenders, however, were held responsible. Any other principle would be contrary to that of our modern law.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH said that the hon. member for P. E. Island (Mr. Howlan) was a member of its Legislature when its little Act was passed. Its last clause even prevented the taking of an action against a private individual.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY objected to these references to the hon. gentleman, who was absent.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH said the present Bill should be more agreeable to him than the Island's statutes, as it would restrict the power of the press, and give a man redress against an offending editor, who could now be criminally prosecuted.

The Committee then rose and reported the Bill.

MESSAGE.

The SPEAKER announced that a message had been received from the other House, to inform the Senate of the appointment of a Committee, with the view

of facilitating the despatch of business, particularly with reference to Bills which both Houses had to deal with.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT suggested that the subject might be considered to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. BOTSFORD said that evidently the object was to give the Senate a better opportunity to legislate upon important business, and not to throw all leading measures to the end of the session, and then call on the Senate to deal with them in a manner avoiding the delay of the closing of Parliament. This matter had been discussed in both branches without any satisfactory results. He presumed this was another attempt to secure this House an earlier opportunity of considering those important matters that come before Parliament every session.

On motion of Hon. Mr. SCOTT, the consideration of the message was fixed for to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. McCLELAN moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. FERGUSON, that the Hon. Mr. Wark be placed on the Printing Committee, instead of Hon. Mr. Muirhead.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. SCOTT, the House then adjourned until Wednesday at 3 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, May 6.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

THIRD READINGS.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER moved the third reading of the Bill to consolidate the Mortgage and Preference shares of the Grand Trunk Railway Co., and for other purposes. Carried.

Hon. Mr. HAMILTON, of Kingston, moved the third reading of the bill to amend the Act of the Caughnawaga Canal Company.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER explained some of the amendments made to the bill in Committee. The majority of the directors would have to be British subjects, and residents of this country, and the time for the commencement of the work would be extended three years.—Motion carried.

EXCISE DUTY.

Hon. Mr. DEVER said he rose to this notice to say that he hoped this hon. House would conceive that he wished no remarks of his might be taken as the slightest reflection on any head of Departments, or on the gentleman who so ably fills the important office of Commissioner