

say to a member, 'I want you to take my place at 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock,' as the case may be; and I do not think there is any impropriety in his so doing.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Of course, the Speaker in the Chair is a very different individual, so far as his powers are concerned, from the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker as the Chairman of a Committee; and while it is quite feasible, I suppose, for a Speaker to call a member to take his place and act as Speaker from that time till the adjournment of the House, it does not follow that the member of the House who has been called to take the chair of the committee as Deputy Speaker can proceed from the chair of the committee to the Speaker's chair, and fulfil all the functions which the Speaker could have fulfilled if in the chair. I think therefore my hon. friend from East Grey is quite right in bringing the matter to the attention of the House, because it concerns the dignity of the House and the order of our proceedings that the rules should be observed.

There was no occasion at all for any of the jeers in which my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) indulged, because the matter was brought to the attention of the House in a very dignified and sensible manner by my hon. friend from Grey (Mr. Sproule). The construction placed upon the rule by my hon. friend from Labelle is most absurd. He says that the rule forbidding members from leaving the service of the House without permission means that they are not to leave the precincts of the House. No one has ever supposed that the rule had ever any such interpretation.

The House was effectively adjourned, and no harm was done, but still it is right that such matters should be brought to your attention, Mr. Speaker, and that we should have your ruling. No blame can be attached to you, Sir, or to your deputy because we have it, on the evidence of my hon. friend, that you were making all possible speed—he does not give the rate of speed, but it may have been a hundred yards in ten seconds—for the purpose of seeing that the House did not continue in session into the Sunday, as my hon. friend from Grey says it did.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. W. S. Fielding). I understand that the hon. member for Grey did not express a desire to have any ruling, or that any action should be taken, but merely drew the attention of the House to the circumstance, so that what did happen, whether regular or irregular, will not be made a precedent. To that extent we all sympathize with the hon. gentleman, but I do not see any particular necessity for a ruling. We may rest content with the assurance that, as my hon. friend from Grey has drawn attention to what took place, there is no danger of its being made a precedent. The purpose which the hon.

member had in view has been accomplished, and I have no doubt that he is quite satisfied.

Mr. SPROULE. My intention was not to reflect on Mr. Speaker or on any body else, but simply to point out what did take place in order that a re-occurrence of the incident might be avoided.

Motion (Mr. Sproule) to adjourn, negatived.

#### TREADGOLD COMMISSION.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to ask the right hon. the Prime Minister whether or not the personnel of the Treadgold commission has been completed by the acceptance of Chief Justice Killam, to whom he referred on a former occasion.

The PRIME MINISTER. No, it has not.

#### THE TREADGOLD CONCESSION.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I brought to the attention of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior, who is not in his seat at present, an inquiry addressed to me by means of a telegram from the Yukon, respecting the right of representation under the Treadgold concession. My hon. friend was good enough to say that he would give me an answer the next day, but evidently the matter has escaped his notice.

The PRIME MINISTER. I will take a note of it.

#### THE CRIMINAL CODE.

Bill (No. 215) further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892, was read the second time.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick) moved that the House go into committee on the Bill.

Mr. TAYLOR. I had a consultation with the hon. minister with reference to this Bill, and he said he would not proceed with it until the deputation, which I told him was coming, had waited on him. I was informed that the deputation would be here to-day or to-morrow.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. My hon. friend has accurately stated what took place. There are, however, certain clauses of the Bill, which are merely amendments of no great importance. We might deal with them and allow the others to stand until I have had an opportunity of hearing the deputation. Or I will allow the whole Bill to stand over.

Mr. TAYLOR. I was at a meeting of the wholesale hardware men last evening and they said that a deputation was coming with respect to another clause. There are practically only two contentious clauses, and it is hardly worth while to deal with any portion of the Bill until they are disposed of.