

reasonable, if they complain that a Bill of this importance comes to us at so late a period in the session.

HON. MR. PLUMB—I have no doubt my hon. friend from Sackville was moved very largely in what he said by the violeent tone in which the hon. gentleman from Woodstock attacked the Government. The hon. member from Ottawa checks himself somewhat in his criticism by remembering that the fault, if fault there be, is one with which both parties are chargeable. When the hon. member was the leader of the Government in this House many instances occurred in which Bills of the greatest importance were brought to the Senate at the last moment, when there was no time to discuss them. I do not remind him of it in the way of recrimination but to show that these things are almost unavoidable in the nature of the two Houses.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—Not at all, not at all.

HON. MR. PLUMB—I shall not notice the hon. member's unseemly interruptions.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—It is ridiculous—ridiculous!

HON. MR. PLUMB—I would remind the hon. member from Ottawa that one of the most important measures ever introduced into the Parliament of Canada originated in the House of Commons upon a resolution introduced, I think, on the 10th day of May, that it was ordered to a second reading on either the 15th or 17th of May, two or three days before the prorogation of Parliament and only two days before it was sent up to the Senate. That Bill, which has affected this country perhaps more than any other measure ever passed in Parliament, was introduced in this House at the very last day, in the afternoon, if one may say so. I am not blaming any one for it. No doubt it was a necessity. Bills of that character are necessarily delayed in their passing through the House of Commons. As they deal with matters of money we must either reject them utterly or take them as they are. The House of Commons has the granting power in all matters

of this kind, and subsidies in land are exactly of the same nature as subsidies of money. But the Pacific Railway Bill of 1874 was not one of that sort. It was a measure which this House had a right to deal with in many of its particulars. The *tu quoque* argument is not one that I care to use, but hon. gentlemen in this House must be sensible of the fact—and I have often expressed my views on that subject—that a good deal of this legislation comes to us in this way. The Government are making every effort to procure prorogation to-day for the purpose of avoiding keeping members here over the holiday, and many of the Maritime province members are anxious to leave to-day, because otherwise they will be delayed on their journey a considerable time, and every effort is being made to facilitate their departure. The House of Commons sat until five o'clock this morning, and members were in their places at eleven o'clock again. Everything has been done to facilitate the business of the Session, and if we are thrown into this dilemma I assure hon. gentlemen that no one regrets it more than my hon. friend beside me (Mr. Smith) and myself, and I trust that with this explanation hon. gentlemen will see that we are doing as well as we can.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned at four o'clock.

SECOND SITTING.

The Speaker took the chair at 7.30 p.m.

THE SUPPLY BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (145) "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial years ending respectively the 30th of June 1886, and the 30th of June 1887, and for other purposes relating to the public service."

The Bill was read the first time.

HON. MR. PLUMB moved the second reading of the Bill.