
QUESTIONS—Continued.

10. Objection taken to a Motion, for House to go into Committee to consider a proposed Resolution respecting the Inspection of Steamboats, on the ground that it did not embody a definite proposition as required by Rule 41. Mr. Speaker decided, That the Rule, as generally understood, and as interpreted by late English practice, simply required the House to go into Committee to consider a general proposition, setting forth the expediency of bringing in a measure on a particular question, and that consequently, in his opinion, the proposed motion, came sufficiently within the meaning of the Rule, 213.
11. Objection taken to second reading of the Bill to readjust the representation in the House of Commons, on the ground that material alterations had been made in the Bill since its introduction, and that it was not, in consequence of such alterations the same Bill that had originally been introduced. Mr. Speaker decided as follows, There is no doubt that the point of Order is very important, and should be carefully decided, with a view to settle such questions in the future. It is true that a loose practice has prevailed in this House, and that Bills have been even allowed to be introduced in blank, without objection being taken. But the Rule is absolute, and such a practice should not be permitted. It is also equally established that when a Bill is once in possession of the House, it becomes its property and cannot be materially altered, except by the House itself. I think since this point has been raised, it is best to follow the settled practice of the English House of Commons, and not to permit hereafter any change, except mere clerical alterations, in a Bill, when it has been once regularly introduced. I therefore decide, that the point of Order is well taken, and the proper course, under the circumstances, is to discharge the Order, and reintroduce the Bill on a previous motion for leave, 406.

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