

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

On the order being called: House again in Committee of Supply:

Mr. GRAHAM: It is eleven o'clock, and we sat late last night. I suggest that we do not go on with Supply.

Mr. DOHERTY: I do not want to insist upon our proceeding, if hon. gentlemen are very desirous of getting away, I simply wished to deal with a few supplementary estimates for the Department of Justice and the Post Office Department.

Mr. GRAHAM: We will put them through quickly some other time.

Mr. DOHERTY: Is that a promise?

Mr. GRAHAM: It is a threat.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. Doherty for the adjournment of the House:

Mr. GRAHAM: What business will be taken up to-morrow? It has been rumoured that the Government intend to ask the House to sit to-morrow night. Several gentlemen from both sides of the House have made engagements for to-morrow night, and I would ask the minister if the Government have decided as to an evening a sitting.

Mr. DOHERTY: With regard to the first question, I understand that we shall take up the Franchise Act to-morrow. It has been the desire to sit to-morrow evening; perhaps I might undertake to consult with those who are in higher authority than myself and to give the hon. gentlemen an answer early in the morning.

Mr. LEMIEUX: While the minister is in his place, I may say that when I was last in Montreal several people—

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. gentlemen is not going to introduce a new subject. The motion for the adjournment of the House does not permit a word of debate. The practice has grown up in the House of permitting a question upon the motion for adjournment as to what business will be taken up the next day. I hope that the hon. gentlemen is not going to introduce a new matter; he would be entirely out of order in doing so.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I will see the Minister of Justice personally.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 11.02 p.m.

Saturday, September 8, 1917.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

## MANUFACTURE OF MUNITIONS.

## MOTION TO ADJOURN THE HOUSE ON A DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, I desire to move, seconded by Mr. Marcil, for leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance: The necessity of supplying munitions to Great Britain during the continuance of the war in view of the fact that they are being decreased and stoppage of the same is threatened.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) desires to move, seconded by Mr. Marcil, for leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance: The necessity of supplying munitions to Great Britain during the continuance of the war in view of the fact that they are being decreased and stoppage of the same is threatened.

I may say with reference to this proposed motion, that it is competent for me to rule that it is not a matter of such importance as to properly be discussed under rule 39. On the other hand, when I have a doubt in my mind, it is my duty to submit the motion to the consideration of the House. Many considerations present themselves to me. One is that the subject of munitions has been discussed at various times during the present session. The one feature of the case that leaves a doubt in my mind is that the supply of munitions has recently been curtailed. The interpretation which has been placed upon the rule is that a definite matter of urgent public importance must be one of recent occurrence. The circumstance that the decrease in munition supplies has been recent leaves a doubt in my mind as to whether the hon. gentleman ought not properly to have the right to present his motion to the House. Having that doubt in my mind, I think I should give the benefit of the doubt to the hon. member and afford him the opportunity of presenting his motion. That being the case I purpose submitting the question to the House as to whether the hon. member shall have leave to move this motion.