

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend overlooks the fact that a day will be lost by the course he proposes. An intermediate day's notice is necessary; consequently when the Address is disposed of the hon. gentleman will give notice of motion and the Senate will have to rise and wait the 24 hours before the motion can be moved, so it is quite clear the utility of the procedure that is laid down is, that no time should be lost. By my hon. friend giving notice to-day, if the Address should be disposed of to-morrow, the resolution can be brought down, the committees appointed and we can get to work. But unless that is done we are only losing a day.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I do not see the point made by my hon. friend, because if this discussion closed between five and six this evening, the notice could go in, and the committees be struck to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes, if notice is given to-day.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Supposing the notice is given to-day, the committees can be struck to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—But the Secretary of State proposes to postpone giving notice of motion until after the Address is disposed of. Let us assume for the moment that the Address is not disposed of to-day, but to-morrow, we will then have to wait 24 hours.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman opposite does not draw a distinction between giving notice of a motion and the consideration of the motion by the Senate. In the House of Commons one of the first things done is to give notice of motion, but nothing is done with the motion until after the Address is disposed of. I do not propose, nor do I desire to suggest that anything should be done until the Address has been passed, but the reason advanced by the hon. gentleman from Calgary is a good reason why the notice should have been given at once. In the House of Commons, immediately after the House met, the Prime Minister gave notice of motion, but he did not act on that motion until after the Address had been passed. There must be some object in this delay, or the usual course would not be departed from. I do not ask the hon. gen-

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tlemen to take action with reference to these committees further than to put the Senate in a position, when the Address is passed, to save time as suggested by the hon. gentleman from Calgary. In my experience here—it is not very long, I admit, not so extensive as that of the Secretary of State—never has a course of this kind been pursued before, and I cannot help thinking there is a reason for it. If it is a good reason the House may acquiesce in it whatever it may be, but we have a right to complain of the delay resulting from the course that is being pursued.

THE SIGNING OF SENATORS' WRITS.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I think in former sessions, when new senators were introduced in this House, the documents were signed by the Master in Chancery. I see in the present case they are signed by the Secretary of State. Is there any reason for the change?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is a reason.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Will the hon. gentleman explain it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There was no reason for the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery signing the papers in the first place. In former years, he was an officer in the Department of the Secretary of State. I do not know whether he was when my hon. friend was a member of the government, but I have looked it up, and I find that he was in former years. The papers had been signed there. I found very considerable delay arose from the papers passing between the Secretary of State's Department and the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. The day before the meeting of parliament arrived, and no commissions had been signed. They were issued the day before the meeting of parliament, which was Ash Wednesday, and were sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, so I myself went over to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and took from him the six forms of parchment, and told him that his services would not be required in the matter. They were then signed and handed in here the next day. Otherwise they might not have been ready as no action whatever had been taken on the day before parliament met.