

particular Department it related, as he had to give explanations and to receive suggestions, which could not be given or received by any one so well as by himself. The honourable member then named the measures adverted to in His Excellency's Speech, and argued that with the exception of the Postal Regulation Bill already introduced by himself, one on the Fisheries which his honourable colleague (Mr. Mitchell) intended to submit, and possibly one other, it would be either necessary or highly expedient that they should originate in the other Branch.

Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just—The Militia Bill was introduced into this House.

Hon. Mr. Campbell—Yes, just precisely for the reason he had alleged, that the Minister of Militia was then a member of it. There was some force in the argument that the adjournment proposed would show the House had nothing to do, and it would perhaps be as well to avoid making that impression, but their meeting day by day without doing anything would very likely have the same effect.

Hon. Mr. Ryan said there was some work to go on with, and quite enough to occupy the House meanwhile. There was one important measure, the Postal Regulation Bill, which he presumed the Postmaster-General was ready to proceed with. Then there was the subject of reporting the debates, which if not immediately attended to and the House adjourned would be found unsettled when it met again. There was a Committee on banking, commerce and railways, which was not fully organized; a Committee on the rules and orders of the House, and in fact there was something to be done to prepare the machinery for doing the work which would afterwards come before them. As the Government did not seem to wish it, he thought it would not only be impolitic to adjourn but a dereliction of duty.

Hon. Mr. Tessier said the adjournment would be a bad precedent, and if the reasons adduced prevailed they could be repeated with similar results at the commencement of every Session. The Senate desired to take a position which would command the respect of the country, but he thought this was not the way to do it. Then there were a number of members from a long distance who would be kept all their time entirely without occupation. Bills would immediately be introduced in the other House and distributed in this, and the members would have the opportunity of examining them and forming their own opin-

ions of their merits. But this House had at least one important measure before it, and he could see no reason why it should not be discussed next week. There were now four Ministers in the House, and if they each brought one measure at an early date the House would soon have work enough to do.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell, (Minister of Fisheries,) wished to say that although he intended to bring in a Bill to establish as far as possible a uniform system of dealing with the fisheries in the several parts of the Dominion he could not engage to do so during this short part of the Session, and he believed that when he had stated his reasons for this delay the House would entirely concur in their reasonableness. The jurisdiction of his Department extended over thousands of miles of sea coast in three Provinces, and for other thousands of miles in the interior, and as he had had but a few weeks after the elections to prepare himself for his onerous duties, it was hardly to be expected, he should be prepared to bring in so early a well considered measure of the kind proposed. His subordinates were busily employed in collecting the information necessary to enable him to deal with the subject, but there was a great deal to be done before safe conclusions were arrived at. Then there was the Marine Branch of his duties which involved the need of much attention and thought before the great interests it had to deal with could be thoroughly understood, and if possible harmonized in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. Different laws respecting lights had obtained in these several countries. In Canada, they were free, whereas in the other Provinces, the cost of their maintenance was chargeable upon the mercantile interests specially affected. The question to be considered was whether the old Canada system should be adopted for the Dominion, or that of one of the Maritime Provinces. Then also there was the subject of Marine Hospitals and other such places of refuge for sailors, which in the different places he had named were managed differently, and regulated by different laws. He was now in communication with the Collectors of Customs and Boards of Trade for the purpose of obtaining information, and was daily receiving replies to the many questions he had proposed, from which he hoped to derive much assistance in framing the measure contemplated. His honourable colleague (Mr. Campbell) had stated reasons why Bills should be introduced in the Chamber, to which the Minister belonged whose Department had to deal with the matters legislated