

referred to the House the following day—the Committee on the Privileges of Parliament—and it does not appear from the Journals that any evidence whatever was taken. My hon. friend tells us from recollection that someone was called upon to speak, and did speak, and gave evidence as to the facts, and on that the resolution was passed.

HON. MR. MILLER—I think the Debates of that day will show fully what took place, and I thought it was on the Journals.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—There was nothing on the Journals, but in the case of Mr. Dickson there was something done in the Committee. There the motion was the same, the time fixed was the same, and the matter came before the Committee on Privileges on the following day.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Was no notice given to the member in either case?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—No notice.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Then there is an omission there.

HON. MR. MILLER—In Mr. Dickson's case there was.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—In Mr. Dickson's case the report was on the 23rd of January and the motion was made to refer the matter to the Committee on Privileges the following day. On the following day the Committee met, and thereupon it was resolved that the report be taken into consideration that day fortnight, (when the Committee met) and that in the meantime Mr. Dickson be notified.

HON. MR. MILLER—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend will see that we have not reached that stage yet.

HON. MR. MILLER—I understood that my hon. friend's intention was to take action to-morrow.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—No. We are exactly in the line of the precedents of this House. Of course, the report must be dealt with to-morrow. The Committee may order what notice they please to be

given to the absent member, and require what evidence they please, but in the meantime we have only to place it before the Committee in accordance with precedent, which we have done.

HON. MR. GOWAN. It is a question of fact whether Mr. Alexander has failed to attend in his place for two sessions; it is a fact on which evidence may be required, and a fact of which this House may possibly have to take judicial notice. Being a fact, I think Senator Alexander should on every account be notified.

The motion was agreed to.

### MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

#### INQUIRY.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved that the House do now adjourn.

HON. MR. POWER. Before the House adjourns I should like to ask the hon. leader of the Government whether he proposes to-morrow to give the House the customary explanations as to the Ministerial changes in this Chamber.

HON. MR. ABBOTT. I may tell my hon. friend that I have not considered the question, but I shall be prepared to give those explanations when properly called upon to do so.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned at 3.45 p.m.

### THE SENATE.

*Ottawa, Tuesday, May 5th, 1891.*

### THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES.

#### SENATOR ALEXANDER'S SEAT.

The Committee met at 2.45 p.m.; the Speaker in the Chair.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—There are two precedents having reference to a similar matter, but they are not exactly on all-fours with this one. On each of these two occasions, a member on the floor of the