

salaries of the members of the Official Reporting Staff be \$3,000 per annum.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that on every Monday for the remainder of the Session Government business will take precedence of other business after Routine Proceedings.

Mr. BLAKE. I had hoped that the hon. gentleman did not intend to press this motion at any rate until after next Monday. As I have had occasion to point out already, the hon. gentleman took the private members' days at a very early period this Session, for the purpose of considering the Canadian Pacific measure, which prevented the business in the hands of private members from being proceeded with; and almost immediately after the conclusion of that debate, he took Thursday. The result has been that private members have never had, within my experience, so little time for their business as this Session. There are now between ninety and one hundred items on the papers, and matters in the hands of private members—between twenty and thirty orders, and between sixty and seventy notices of motion; and I think we ought to have next Monday to clear off the notices of motion. I would suggest, as I have suggested before, that the paper should be gone over, with the view of disposing of undebated notices on that day; and after that I think there would be less objection to the hon. gentleman's motion passing—even so, with this qualification, that I think the hon. gentleman should make the modification that Government business should come after questions. These questions afford the only means we have of making enquiries into the conduct of public affairs, and it is very important that we should have that opportunity, which does not take longer than half an hour. I would ask the hon. gentleman, therefore, to alter the motion by making it inapplicable to next Monday, and by providing that when it does apply, it should apply to the order of business after questions.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Well, I can go half way for the hon. gentleman. I have no objection to insert, "after routine proceedings, other than questions;" but I think I must persist in my motion to take Monday. The hon. gentleman states that there are a great number of notices of motion. Well, Parliamentary practice makes it absolutely necessary that motions in the hands of private members should be made early, in order that they should not interfere with public business, which, according to the practice both here and in England, means, as a rule, measures in the hands of the Government. I think it is rather unfortunate that such has been the practice, but we cannot help it. It should therefore be pressed on the minds of members, to move any motion which they have to bring before Parliament as early as possible, because, we all know, for the first three or four weeks of the Session, it is impossible that the Government measures can be ready until after that time, for the consideration of Parliament. We met on the 17th of January, and I find that the first notice of motion was dated on the 3rd of March. There is no reason why the notices of motion should not be made a month sooner than they have been. If the hon. gentleman will look over the notices of motion, he will see there is no reason why they should not be made a month sooner, and if there is one thing that the House has settled more than another, it is that a three months' Session is the utmost extent to which it should run. If we wish to keep within that limit, we must, after giving in the first part of the Session full opportunity to members of the House, not connected with the Government, to introduce measures, take as many days as possible. However, I have no objection that in this motion questions should be saved. As to the calling over the notices of motion at the

end of the sitting, and taking up those which are objectionable, I have found, after a good deal of experience, that the moment one motion is opposed, the member interested in that motion would oppose everything else.

Mr. MILLS. It is very unfortunate that the hon. gentleman should persist in this motion. If there is any class of members who should be ready with the business they intend bringing before Parliament, it is the hon. gentlemen who occupy the Treasury Benches. There is no excuse for the practice which has grown up under the leadership of the hon. gentleman of submitting important Government measures at a very late period of the Session. The hon. gentleman will remember that in the early part of the Session, while the question of the loan to the Canadian Pacific Railway was under discussion, the Government took the day at the disposal of private members, so that almost from the beginning the time of Parliament has been wholly in the hands of the Administration. It is well known that many matters come to the knowledge of hon. members after the measures have been here some time, and they take the earliest opportunity of submitting questions to Parliament after the information to them comes into their possession, so that it is important that Government measures should be brought down in good time; and if there is one class of members who ought to have the opportunity of bringing the questions and measures in their hands under the attention of the House, it is the private members. It does seem to me the Government are acting most unfairly towards the members of the House, and are proposing to stifle the voice of Parliament rather than secure the expression of public opinion.

Mr. HESSON. The hon. gentleman has occupied a good deal of the time of the House in debating many matters of slight importance, and it is the general opinion of the House that we ought to get through business without more loss of time.

Motion, as amended, agreed to on a division.

#### AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain proposed resolutions (page 67) to make provision for giving effect to the agreement entered into between the Government of Canada and British Columbia. He said: I am very glad to know that the House has been rendered so familiar with this resolution and the proposition contained therein, both through the medium of the press and of the papers already laid on the Table of the House, that it will not be necessary for me, at this late period, to occupy a great deal of the time of the House in stating the grounds upon which we asked the approval of the House to these resolutions. It is well known that in 1871 the terms of union with British Columbia required that the railway should be commenced within two years, and completed within ten years to the coast of that Province; and it is also equally well known that, although due diligence was had by the Government in pushing the surveys, it was found impossible to secure such information as would warrant the location of the line in time to commence the railway within the two years stated in those terms of union. The surveys were pushed with all practicable speed, a very large amount of money was expended in exploring and surveying the very difficult and almost impracticable country, and it was finally decided that a practicable route could be had to the Bute Inlet. In 1873, an Order in Council was passed making Esquimalt, in the Island of Vancouver at Victoria, the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the expectations of the people of Vancouver Island were greatly excited by the prospect of having that harbour made the terminus of the Canadian