

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Friday, February, 16th, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3.00 p.m.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE BILLS.

SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE, presented the second report of the Select Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, recommending that the time limited for receiving petitions for Private Bills be extended to Thursday, the first day of March, next, and moved that it be adopted presently.

HON. MR. MILLER.—I rise merely to suggest whether it would not be well to revise a rule, the suspension of which the hon. gentleman now moves for. From time to time the rule, not only with regard to limiting the time for the reception of petitions for Private Bills, but also the rule limiting the time for the presentation for Private Bills is suspended on the recommendation of the Committee. The object of the rule is to prevent business from being crowded upon the House during the latter part of the Session. The rule, at present, does not by any means achieve its purpose; continual extensions of time are granted whenever they are asked for, and I think the time for receiving Bills should be much longer than it is now according to the rule. I think there should be some understanding in the House, that parties who fail to bring their petitions before the Senate within the time fixed by the rule, could not expect a hearing that Session, and that parties having legislation to submit to the House, should be obliged to submit it within a reasonable period. I know that the great complaint with regard to this House is, that we are crowded not only with the work of this House, but with the work from the other House at the end of the Session, and I think the facility with which those extensions of the rule now under discussion are accorded by the House has a good deal to do with forcing that state of affairs. I do not at all oppose the motion that the hon. gentleman has made on the recommendation of the Committee.

I think the extension is absolutely necessary as it is altogether unreasonable to expect all petitions for Private Bills to be presented within the time limited by the rule, and it would be well for the Committee to recommend to the House an alteration of the rule.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE.—I think the suggestion of the hon. gentleman from Richmond is a good one; it would facilitate the transaction of business in both Houses if the rule were amended in that direction. I shall bring the matter before the Committee and see if an understanding can be arrived at with the House of Commons, so that the time shall be extended by the rule, and in future it will not be necessary to bring in such motions.

The motion was agreed to.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

EXPLANATION.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL.—I said yesterday in answer to a question proposed by the hon. gentleman from Delenaudiere, that I would be able to inform the House to-day when the return asked for by my hon. friend would be laid on the table of the House showing, the names, origins, religions, offices and salaries of all public servants of the Dominion. I have shown the hon. gentleman, since then, the form in which that return will appear, and I think it will give all the information that the House desires, or my hon. friend wishes. It is now in the hands of the printer and will be printed. It was thought by the Government it was a return which would have to be printed ultimately. It will give all the information I have mentioned, and, I think, that will be satisfactory to the House.

HON. MR. MILLER.—Could you not state whether they are male or female also?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL.—That is not in the return. We have some women employed in the public service—not very many. That could also be stated.

The Senate adjourned at 4.20 p.m.