

Second Sitting.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

PUBLIC PRINTING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL introduced Bill (X) "An Act to amend chapter 27 of the Revised Statutes intituled an Act respecting the Public Printing." He said:—This is a very short but a very necessary Bill for the proper working and management of the Intercolonial Railway. The House is aware that a change has been made by which the headquarters of the Intercolonial Railway are now at Moncton, from which station all orders are issued affecting the railway. Under the law as it stands relating to the printing of Parliament and all other Government printing, the Intercolonial Railway officials at Moncton, St. John, Halifax, and Quebec are prevented from even printing the tickets necessary, or a time-table when it may be necessary to make a change. The Bill is to give authority to the Railway Department to have that kind of printing performed where it is most convenient in the public interest. The power given here is simply to enable the superintendent at Moncton or at Quebec in case they should require railway tickets or a time-table, to have it done there without sending it to Ottawa. The inconvenience which would arise from having to get the work done here will present itself to every member of the House. This leaves the auditing of the accounts to the Queen's Printer and Auditor-General at Ottawa, so as to prevent the possibility of any overcharge.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was passed through all its stages under suspension of the rules.

THE RULES OF THE HOUSE.

MOTION.

The Order of the Day being called, "consideration of the report of the special Committee appointed to revise the orders, rules and forms of proceeding of the Senate."

Hon. Mr. POWER moved the adoption of the report and explained the changes pro-

posed. He said:—The Committee thought that they would not make any recommendation to the House as to the action which should be taken upon these rules now. There is a good deal to be said in favour of allowing this draft to stand over until next session so that each hon. gentleman may have a copy of the draft and consider it during the recess, if he is so disposed, so that when we meet again (which I hope we may all next year) this draft can be referred to a Committee and any amendments that may have suggested themselves to the members of the Senate during the recess may then be considered. Of course if the House think well to adopt the rules at once, notice should be given, because under our rules a day's notice is required to make a new standing order, and it would be necessary now to give notice for Saturday. I have moved the adoption of the report, which does not imply that the rules are to be dealt with at once, and I leave it to the House to decide whether the rules shall stand over until next session.

Hon. Mr. DE BOUCHERVILLE—I understand that these rules are to be printed.

Hon. Mr. POWER—They are printed now. Any hon. gentleman who wishes to examine them can do so in this form quite as conveniently as in any other form.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY—I should like to make a suggestion to the leader of the Government with respect to the last point that was adverted to by my hon. friend as to the time when these rules shall come into operation. That ought to be well thought of before we come to any conclusion upon it for this reason, that it would be manifestly a most inconvenient thing that these rules should go into operation at any period of the session except the beginning of the session. Otherwise you would have one set of rules in operation for a portion of the session, and for the remainder of the session would have these new and revised rules. It would lead to a great deal of entanglement and difficulty in the application of these rules, but it would be simplified if we could start fair. If the House will place confidence in the labours of the Committee and on Saturday will conclude to adopt these rules, they will be in shape to go into operation at the beginning of next session. There is