

committee on rules is the Speaker himself, who is thus entitled in practice to decide how long the discussion on every bill or stage of a bill shall be allowed, and when the final vote must be taken(*z*). It appears that the late Mr. Reed, when Speaker of the House of Representatives, was asked what under this system becomes of the rights of a minority, to which he replied that "the right of the minority is to draw its salaries, and its function is to make a quorum"(*a*). "Thank God," the same gentleman once exclaimed, according to the *New York Weekly Post*, "the House is not a deliberative body"(*b*). "It is like a woman," said Secretary Evarts, "if it deliberates, it is lost"(*c*).

Space will not permit us to dwell upon the contrast presented here with the system in vogue in the British House of Commons, and the Canadian House of Commons at Ottawa. The committees of the House of Commons at Ottawa, as those of the House of Commons in London, merely investigate and report. They are not appointed by the Speaker but are chosen with care by a committee of selection composed of members of both parties. Moreover, they are very large,—some of them comprising two-thirds of the whole House. Thus the committees entrusted with private bills in the House of Commons at Ottawa, comprise from 43 to 162 members each. And as to opportunities for debate, anyone who wishes to see what they are can do so in Sir John Bourinot's *Canadian Studies in Comparative Politics*, or in Mr. Chamberlain's article above referred to. Under the British system, as Mr. Chamberlain states, "there may be lengthened discussion on all the six stages of an English bill, and such discussion almost invariably takes place on four of them"(*d*).

Nor, again, can I dwell upon the numerous evil incidental

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(*z*) *Nineteenth Century*, December, 1890, Vol. 23, p. 866. See *supra* p. 31 n. (*s*.)

(*a*) *Ibid.*, p. 871.

(*b*) *New York Weekly Post*, January 4th, 1890.

(*c*) *Nineteenth Century*, December, 1890, Vol. 23, p. 870.

(*d*) *Ibid.*, at p. 884.