

I suppose he will agree with me that it is important that the nature of the Bill should be known, in order to guide the revising officers in their work.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I hope to make a statement about it to-morrow, and to be able to communicate with the revising officers immediately.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Mr. PERRY. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals when the House may expect the return to an Order of the House, moved for by myself on the 14th inst., with reference to the removal of the flag station on the Prince Edward Island Railway from Mill River to Howlan Road. This may not be of much consequence to the hon. Minister himself, but it is of very great consequence to me and to my constituents, who are sorely affected by the change. There is no use in bringing these papers down at the eleventh hour. They were moved for a fortnight ago. All that is asked for is a copy of the petition with the names. I want to find out who the parties are who asked for this change.

Mr. HAGGART. I think I informed the hon. gentleman that the station was moved at the request of the Rev. Mr. Burke, and because of the petition signed by those in the neighbourhood. I think these were the only parties who requested that the change should be made.

Mr. PERRY. I moved for all the papers in connection with the subject. In the first place, I asked at whose recommendation, and the answer was at the recommendation of the Rev. Mr. Burke. I want now to get those papers, and the House has ordered those papers. I made a motion and spoke, and the Minister never thought proper to answer my remarks. He never can hear complaints made by that priest.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to call the attention of the Finance Minister to a misconception of some sort which occurred in the Public Accounts Committee. On the last occasion when that committee met, it was arranged between a number of gentlemen who had business with it, and the acting chairman, the hon. member for Toronto East (Mr. Coatsworth), that it would meet this morning at half-past ten o'clock. At half-past ten a number of gentlemen were in attendance. I believe with witnesses, and they discovered that the committee had met at ten o'clock, contrary to the understanding made with the acting chairman, and had adjourned, either for want of a quorum or for want of business. Now, there can be no doubt whatever that that arrangement was made—my hon. friend beside me was not present on that occasion

Mr. LAURIER.

and I suppose was not cognizant of the arrangement—but I think, in all conscience, that as the error has clearly not been on the part of the gentlemen who had their witnesses in hand, the committee ought to meet either to-morrow or Thursday, whichever will be most convenient to the Government, as well as on Friday. Two days in the week are little enough.

Mr. FOSTER. I have no doubt the difficulty all arose because neither my hon. friend nor myself happened to be there; if we had been there no doubt we would have had it arranged all right. However, as a misunderstanding did take place in one way or another, probably we can arrange to have two meetings held this week. If Thursday is free, we can meet on Thursday. But I have no doubt the chairman will take that in hand.

Mr. BAKER. The notices were sent out for ten o'clock this morning, of course owing to some misunderstanding. The committee met, but the parties were not in attendance, and as there was a meeting of the Committee on Privileges and Elections at 10:15, the committee adjourned to meet at the call of the chairman. I have since been in communication with the hon. gentlemen who had business before the committee, and if it meets with the approval of both sides of the House, I propose to call a meeting on Thursday, so that we may have meetings both on Thursday and Friday, and a full week's work will be put in.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Although no blame can be attached to the chairman of the committee, still the fact that the committee adjourned at its previous meeting to half-past ten, was perfectly well understood, and was so announced by the acting chairman at the time. I myself was in attendance this morning at a few minutes after ten, because I received a notice last night saying ten o'clock, and I saw that it was called for ten instead of half-past, and I thought at any rate I would be present, and was in the hall at the time when the committee very suddenly adjourned at four or five minutes past ten. It was clearly understood by everybody that the committee was to meet at half-past ten, and as these witnesses have travelled from Montreal to be present here, there is some expense and a great deal of inconvenience arising out of the misunderstanding. But myself and a number of other gentlemen who were interested in the inquiries before this committee, were all in attendance, and I went into the committee room and at twenty minutes before the hour when it was arranged that the committee should meet, and found it already adjourned.

Mr. COATSWORTH. I wish to say a word to clear the clerk of the committee of any blame, as I was acting chairman. The previous meeting was called for ten o'clock,