

on these clauses at a particular date, I am perfectly willing to come to that agreement; in fact, it is what I suggested and offered six or seven weeks ago. There is no difficulty about making a perfectly reasonable and fair arrangement on the subject—not the slightest; but if my hon. friends on the other side of the House will do nothing of that kind, if we cannot come to any arrangement of the kind, we shall have to get on as best we can.

Mr. BOIVIN: I quite realize that my right hon. friend has made such proposals to the Opposition and that the members of the Opposition have not been willing to agree to them. I understand that it was precisely for that reason that the closure rules were introduced in this House. Those rules were interpreted by the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Meighen), by the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Aikins), and by the Prime Minister himself in a manner which has made them quite comprehensible to everybody in this House. Now, as I understand these rules, in spite of the fact that the Opposition refused to agree to a vote, and I think it will be impossible to get the members of the Opposition to agree to a vote, in spite of the fact that we refused to agree to this vote, is it not within the power of the majority of this House, directed by the Prime Minister, to force clause 2 through this House tomorrow night? In my opinion it is and after clause 2 has gone through the House we can discuss clause 3, clause 4 and clause 5 with a great deal more common sense than we will be able to do without knowing what clause 2 is going to be. I understand that notice can be given now whereby clause 2 will have to go through this House to-morrow night, clause 3 then to go through the next night; or a notice could be given that both would have to go through to-morrow night. If that notice is given on the four clauses altogether, I would point out to the Prime Minister that, as he admits himself, we have been precluded from moving any amendment to the last two clauses. Clause 2 will be discussed, perhaps, during the last six or eight hours before the conclusion of the debate and the other clauses will have to go through without any amendments being presented by hon. members of this side of the House who might have amendments which would appeal to the Prime Minister. Such a member will be precluded from presenting these amendments.

Mr. BORDEN: My hon. friend will, of course, see the difficulty. As a matter of fact, an amendment has been moved to clause 3 and an amendment and a sub-amendment have been moved to clause 2. That is the way it stands at present. If my hon. friends opposite are not willing

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to make any arrangement about a vote on the Bill, and insist upon our making use of the new rules in order to obtain a vote, then the result is that it is difficult to arrange so that they can move other amendments after those are disposed of. I have no desire to prevent such amendments being moved, but I desire to point out to my hon. friend the difficulty which is created, not by our action, but by the action of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. GRAHAM: Is not this the difficulty, that these clauses can be guillotined one at a time, although it would take a little longer. But the Prime Minister desires to guillotine them wholesale, all at once, and is postponing them one after the other until he gets them all in the slaughter house and then he will kill them all at one blow.

Mr. BORDEN: If my hon. friends opposite desire, as they informed us a couple of nights ago that they do desire and intend, to prevent the Bill getting through except under the application of the new rules, that would not prevent our having one amendment in the meantime voted upon, and then they could insist that the rule should be applied to a subsequent amendment. They are under no difficulty in regard to it. They desire to make different amendments to the Bill. They can have votes taken upon all except the last one, and then insist upon the application of the new rules so far as that one is concerned, so it does not seem to me that there is any difficulty.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: There is no difficulty; the game is plain. My hon. friend is too candid when he says he expects to have common sense applied. It is not intended to have common sense, but to have the gag, force. Two sections of this Bill have been suspended. This is the first time in my experience, and the first time in that of my hon. friend, that clauses in a Bill have been suspended without any reason being given for that suspension. Again and again I have seen a clause suspended, but that was in order to get further information or to give further consideration to some particular point. But yesterday the Government asked for the suspension of this second clause without giving any reason whatever. Though they did not give any reason we know it very well. The same thing will be done to-day upon clause 4 and clause 5, and to-morrow the whole thing will be railroaded through. That is what will be done.

Mr. BORDEN: I tell my right hon. friend again that more time has been spent in committee on this Bill than upon any Bill I remember in this Parliament. I stated to my right hon. friend many weeks ago that, so far as the gag as he calls it is concerned, if he would name any reason-