

HON. MR. SCOTT—It has not been the custom hitherto to take up the substantial business of the Session before the Address is passed, but every member will bear in mind that this Chamber, as well as the other, has exercised its sovereign right by introducing a formal Bill after the Speech from the Throne, indicating its power to legislate before the Address is adopted.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I think it is an improvement that we ought to congratulate the Government for having introduced, although we have no precedent for it. The fact is that those Bills will not be taken into consideration until the Speech from the Throne is answered. Supposing the debate on the Address should be prolonged, those Bills would be postponed until the Address was passed. I have no disposition to take up those bills as part of the business of the Session until the usual Act of courtesy to His Excellency has been attended to.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to say that if I had been aware that the Chamber would not be in a proper condition to day for the convenience of members, I should not have asked the House to take into consideration the Address to His Excellency this afternoon. It is very inconvenient for hon. gentlemen, not only those who desire to speak but those who desire to reply, that there should be no desks, and altogether the House has an unnatural and uncomfortable appearance, which renders it, I think, unpleasant to go on with the business to day. I would suggest, therefore—in fact, I would move, that the House do now adjourn, the object being not to render it necessary to have the Order of the Day called, and not to have any application to have the Order stand, or to have any motion for an adjournment of the debate—but simply for this: that, as the House is not in a proper condition for the transaction of business just now we should adjourn until Monday.

HON. MR. POWER—What becomes of the business on the Order Paper?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It stands.

HON. MR. POWER—It seems to me that the better way is the regular way—to postpone the Order of the Day and not to move an adjournment of the House.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—If this is regular I think it is preferable, but if any hon. gentlemen will point out anything irregular about it I shall withdraw my motion.

HON. MR. DICKEY—The incongruity of it is this: if we now adjourn, the Order of the Day is not dealt with at all, and I think the suggestion is a very proper one, that when the House is understood to be adjourned there ought to be some record on our minutes as to whether the Order has been disposed of or whether it has been laid over until Monday.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—Under our rules, when any Order of the Day is not disposed of it stands; consequently, it is unnecessary to have a motion with reference to it; it will be taken up in the ordinary course, as if it had not been disposed of before. It is not really necessary to have a motion to postpone an Order of the Day; if there is not time to get through with it on the day for which it is ordered it stands until the following day.

HON. MR. MILLER—On entering the room I understood that two or three Bills had been introduced before the Order of the Day was reached. While it is perfectly constitutional to do so, still it is very unusual. Under the rules of the House those Bills will take precedence of the Order of the Day for the consideration of the answer to His Excellency's Speech. I think, therefore, that if an adjournment is to be moved it may as well be understood that a motion should be made to the effect that the consideration of His Excellency's Speech shall be the first Order of the Day for Monday.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not understand that that is necessary. If we now adjourn the Paper will stand on Monday as we leave it to-day.

HON. MR. POWER—No, no.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—That is what I understand—I may be wrong.

HON. MR. MILLER—The second readings of the Bills introduced by the hon. gentleman will take precedence of the Order of the Day.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend from Richmond will see that I purposely