

tion. That very excellent authority on parliamentary procedure, Bourinot, says :

Bills relating to trade or involving expenditure and taxation must be initiated in Committee of the Whole before the House will give leave for their introduction.

This Bill is not introduced by resolution. Bourinot again says at page 596 :

Bills involving public aid or charge—It is the invariable rule that all measures involving a charge upon the people, or any class thereof, should be first considered in a Committee of the Whole.

Rule 88 says :

If any motions be made in the House for any public aid or charge upon the people, the consideration and debate thereof may not be presently entered upon, but shall be adjourned until such future day as the House may think fit to appoint ; and then it shall be referred to a Committee of the Whole House before any resolution or vote of the House do pass thereon.

Bourinot at page 539 says :

Governor General's recommendation—The recommendation of the Crown to any resolution involving a payment out of the Dominion treasury must be formally given by a privy councillor in his place at the very initiation of a proceeding.

All these rules have been either overlooked or neglected. I draw attention to the fact that this Bill is not introduced by a resolution. I draw attention to the fact that Bills which provide for the expenditure of public money or taxation must have the assent of the Crown, and we have not had any intimation that the assent of the Crown has been obtained. I ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker on these points.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The right hon. the Prime Minister might have accomplished the same purpose in another way rather than by formerly introducing his Bill. I may say to my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) that while the rule is undoubtedly as he has read it, the practice of the House is to permit a Bill to be introduced, and again and again the resolution has been afterwards placed on the notice paper. Of course that resolution must be considered before the Bill is proceeded with.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am not ready to decide off-hand the question which has been raised by the hon. member. It is a very important question, and I think the hon. gentleman will agree with me that before I give a decision it would be necessary for me to read over the Bill. At the same time if the hon. gentleman looks at rule 88 he will find:

If any motion be made in the House for any public aid or charge upon the people, the consideration and debate thereof may not be presently entered thereon, but shall be adjourned until such further day as the House may think fit to appoint.

If there is any doubt, perhaps the question could be adjourned with the assurance

Mr. SPROULE.

that the resolution is going on the Order Paper to-day, and then there will be no violation of the rule. However, I shall be glad to look into the question carefully.

Mr. SPROULE. They have not had the assent of the Crown.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The resolution is on the Order Paper.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What will be the order of business to-morrow ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We will take up in supply the estimates of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who cannot very conveniently attend in the evening, and if we go out of the Committee of Supply, we will take up the resolutions on the iron and steel bounties.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, July 31, 1903.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 233) respecting the manufacture of binder twine in Canada.—The Minister of Finance.

SUPPLY.

Ocean and mail service between Great Britain and Canada, \$150,000.

Mr. BLAIN. At the last meeting the Minister of Trade and Commerce gave us the quantity of mail matter that went by the Canadian route. Would he be good enough to give us the quantity that goes by the New York route ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright). Probably about six or seven times as much. That would rather come under the Postmaster General's department.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Hon. Sir William Mulock). I could not carry those figures in my memory. Some time ago the question was asked from the other side by, I think, the senior member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), and I gave the figures of the quantity of mail that went via New York and via Halifax.