

that the rule should be enforced, it should be enforced, or it would lose its value. Last session, as chairman of one of the principal Private Bills Committees, he found it impossible to give due consideration to very important bills introduced at a late period of the session, under a suspension of the rules, and on examination of the statute book he found clauses in private bills which had not, and could not have had, under the circumstances, the consideration they deserved. It is therefore in the interest of sound private bill legislation for which the leader of the Government was equally as responsible as he was for public legislation, that he made the suggestion he had offered to the Premier. Under our system we must hold the Government responsible for the whole legislation of the country. In private bills it not unfrequently happened that clauses were introduced affecting *quondam* particular interests the public law of the country, and in respect to these Bills the Government must be held responsible.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN MACDONALD said his hon. friend carried this responsibility further than it was carried in England, where the Government was not held responsible for private legislation. The hon. gentleman spoke, also, of this extension of time as an abrogation of the rules of the House, but it would be admitted that the rules might sometimes be abrogated with great advantage. The hon. gentleman, for instance, had spoken twice on this subject, which was an abrogation of the rule, but still a very great advantage to the House.

Mr. RYMAL said it was perfectly regular for the Committee to recommend a suspension of the rule, and, considering the fact that this session had commenced some six weeks earlier than usual, the recommendation should be adopted.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said the early meeting of the House furnished an ample justification for the suspension of the rules, and it would be very improper to refuse it, but he thought the remarks of the hon. member for Kingston ought to make the House all the more alert in maintaining the rules since the Government were not responsible for private legislation. Numbers of private bills were in effect largely public bills. Take for example two cases

of the previous session. Numerous bills relating to banks were settled by a public bill, and in the same manner bills relating to building societies were brought under a general act. In both these cases the government were responsible for the legislation. He suggested that the House should determine upon a certain time within which petitions could be received, and adhere rigidly to that, only extending the time in special cases where the committee were satisfied that such extension should be granted. No general extension should in future take place.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the remarks made by the hon. member for South Bruce were particularly in point with reference to the legislation of last session. Two bills relating to building societies came in late in the session and it was utterly impossible from the lateness of the season and the anxiety of members to leave, for the government to give them the consideration they should receive. He felt that for these, at least, the Government had a direct responsibility that they could not shake off.

The motion was carried.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

Mr. IRVING—Act respecting the International Bridge Company.

Mr. JETTE—Bill to amend the several acts incorporating and relating to the Richelieu Company and to change its name.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT—Act to amend the act respecting banks and banking. He explained that the object of this bill was to amend the schedule in which one particular bank, which had become insolvent, appeared regularly every month.

Mr. JETTE—A Bill for the incorporation of the Royal Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada.

THE SUPREME COURT.

Hon. Mr. FOURNIER moved for leave to introduce a bill which had been announced in the Speech from the Throne—an Act respecting the establishment of a Supreme Court. He said that a Bill on this subject had been announced on four occasions. The hon. leader of the Opposition had, in another debate, alluded to the numerous difficulties that had pre-