

Company affair, and now we have an inquiry into the management of the Marine and Fisheries and other departments. All these inquiries delay the House. It is not the length of the speeches members make. It is the inquiries that cause the delay—the way they are obstructed in trying to get at the bottom of these things, and that is why parliament is kept in session so long. I do not hesitate to say that parliament ought to get through the business in three months, if everyone undertook to do his duty and expedite legislation. But you will find in the other House there is obstruction from start to finish whenever there is a demand for an inquiry. A large number of members in the Commons, on the government side, undertake to protect people who have stolen money or done something wrong. If the government were anxious to see that good, honest men were employed, then there would be no inquiries of this kind, and we would have shorter sessions. The reason the sessions are long is because the opposition do not see fit to let things go by default, and permit the government to take everything in sight, and when they are obstructed in making these inquiries, it has, to a large extent, to do with the prolonging of the session. The hon. gentleman is entirely wide of the mark when he states that the long speeches are the cause of the trouble. Members are elected to the House of Commons to represent certain constituencies, and they have to do their duty.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—It is only a few months ago that the hon. gentleman made the statement in Toronto that this House was no good. Now he states that the other House is no good.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—I did not do anything of the kind.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—I do not know where the hon. gentleman stands—

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—I rise to a point of order. This House did some good when it thwarted the Drummond County Railway Bill.

The SPEAKER—I do not think there should be any discussion on the merits of the motion passed by this House on May

13. The motion now before the House is simply to send the resolution to the House of Commons. Of course the House can divide on the motion itself, but there is a general principle that a debate cannot be repeated on the same question, and I would draw the attention of hon. gentlemen to that point.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I rise to a question of order. The motion, as it is presented to the House, is that a resolution passed by the Senate on the 13th instant proposing a joint committee of conference of both Houses, &c., be forwarded by the proper officer of the Senate to the House of Commons. When this House passes a resolution like the one passed on May 13, we do not proceed in that way. The following is the resolution passed by this House on May 13 :

That the Senate deems it expedient to invite the House of Commons to co-operate with it by means of a joint committee to consider the advisability of devising methods whereby a more equal division of the initiation of private and public legislation may be secured between the two branches of parliament, and adopting rules governing debate which will limit the time of discussion so as to better expedite business.

I may call attention to the fact that those two things are quite different, but that is not the point I want to raise? When we pass a resolution in this House asking for a joint committee, we send a message. We do not take the resolution and lay it on the table. I will refer to page 52 of the Minutes of the House of Commons of this year, where I find the following:

Resolved that a message be sent to the Senate requesting that their honours will unite with this House in the formation of a joint committee of both Houses on the subject of the printing of parliament, &c.

I think this resolution is not the proper one. We should send a message requesting that their honours will unite with this House. This message I have read is one that was sent to the Senate; but when we send a message to the House of Commons it is 'that a message be sent to the House of Commons by one of the Masters in Chancery informing that House that the Senate has invited them to form a committee, or asking them to join with the Senate in the appointment of a joint committee.'