

"Gentlemen, science desires much more than we do. She is not content with a German unity of time or with that of Middle Europe, but she is desirous of obtaining a world time based upon the meridian of Greenwich, and certainly with full right from her standpoint and with the end she has in view."

"I believe it will assist the movement if the Parliament declares itself in sympathy with a principle which in America, in England, in Sweden, in Denmark and Switzerland and in South Germany has already obtained acceptance."

In concluding the explanations of the object of this Bill, I may say that in order that it shall not be forced upon any section of the country, and in order that it shall have that consideration which is necessary to its successful operation, it is proposed in the last clause that the Act shall not come into operation in any province until the Legislature of that province has adopted a similar Bill, and, therefore, all complicated questions of jurisdiction are avoided, and the question as to whether, in reference to contracts or any other subject, this Parliament has power to deal with the subject will not arise. Even if the Act becomes operative, it cannot go into effect without the consent of the Legislature.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

THE CENSUS.

Mr. CASEY. Before the Orders of the Day are called, no doubt the hon. Postmaster General will remember the information he promised yesterday to give us to-day.

Mr. HAGGART. I made enquiries from the department to-day, and I learned that Mr. Johnson, the head of the bureau, has been obliged to leave, on account of a death in his family. The officer informs me that on Wednesday, at latest, you will have the full returns.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Wednesday of next week?

Mr. HAGGART. Yes, next week.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. TARTE. (Translation.) Before we pass to the Orders of the Day, I wish to draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to a despatch published in the *London Times* of August 10th, stating that on August 8th I had admitted somewhere having received \$3,000 from a firm of public contractors under accusation before this Parliament. This despatch is signed by the Reuter Agency. I am glad to be able to say that it is absolutely untruthful, and, I will add, intentionally untruthful, for its author—if my information is correct—was present on the occasion referred to. The incident was brought about by the hon. member for Montreal Centre (Mr. Curran) before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, when the hon. member thought fit to put to Mr. McGreevy a question in which the witness was asked if I had not received \$3,000 from him—

Mr. SPEAKER. Have these proceedings of the Committee been reported to the House?

Mr. TARTE. I am referring to a question of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would like to call the attention of the hon. member to the fact, that if a paper has published something in reference to him that

Mr. TUPPER.

did not occur in this House, I think it is not a question of privilege.

Mr. TARTE. Am I to understand that I am not allowed to refer to a telegram published in the *London Times*?

Mr. SPEAKER. Unless it has reference to something that occurred in this House.

Mr. TARTE. I am alluding to a false statement published against me.

Mr. SPEAKER. Only the statement of a newspaper respecting the proceedings of the House is a question of privilege.

Mr. CASEY. As I understand, Sir, the hon. gentleman refers to a matter which has been published against him, and which affects his honour and standing as a member.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. The hon. member has a right, as every member in this House has always exercised, to mention what he thinks of a certain passage in the newspapers received here. When Mr. Speaker told the hon. gentleman that he was out of order, it was not the *London Times* he had in his hands, but he was reading from the printed minutes of a committee which has yet to report to the House. I do not think he can be prevented from vindicating his own position or repudiating an article in a newspaper, but he has no right to read from proceedings of a committee that has not reported to the House.

Mr. TARTE. I was speaking in French, but I did not read a line of what took place before any committee. Of course, Sir, I am perfectly willing to abide by your decision. What I was saying in French is this, and I will say it in French again.

(Translation.) I am referring to a despatch published in the *London Times* in connection with what took place before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I have the *London Times* in my hand, and I believe I have a right to refer to it. This despatch is untruthful, and as it has been said that I had somewhere admitted having received a sum of money from contractors under accusation before this House, I say that whoever stated anything or wrote anywhere, near or far, any such a thing, has stated an absolute untruth.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call the attention of the House and the Government to a matter of considerable importance in connection with the Committee on Public Accounts. It has been known for some time that differences of opinion arose in that committee as to its powers and functions, and as to the scope of the investigation into the Public Accounts committed to that Committee during the session. So great, indeed, were the differences that existed, that on one or two occasions the time of the Committee was taken up in a discussion on the powers and functions of the Committee, much to the detriment of the enquiry which was submitted. This difficulty became so serious that the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright)—

Mr. TUPPER. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, is the hon. gentleman in order in referring to difficulties that occurred in the Public Accounts Committee?