

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The point referred to by the Minister of Justice to my mind has no force: that is, that the motion stands before the Orders of the Day. If the hon. gentleman will look at the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons he will find some fifteen or twenty such motions. I know that there is no rule, but we are governed by precedent, and no one knows better than my hon. friend that the British constitution is based upon precedents almost entirely. If you could go on with these motions here, and they could go on with such motions in the House of Commons, you might delay the passage of the address in answer to the speech from the throne indefinitely.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Yes, perhaps till the end of the session. There is no doubt about that, and therefore there is very great convenience in the practice which my hon. friend has referred to.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—There was a case in point which occurred during the time Sir John Abbott was leader of the House; I think it was the year he came here from the House of Commons. He introduced some measure before the debate on the address was over, but withdrew it on the representation that that was contrary to the usual practice of the House.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—There is no urgency, I suppose.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I have not the slightest objection to let the notice stand until after the adoption of the address. I was called upon by the Speaker to make my motion, and the printed order of the House put me in that position. It is not a matter of such importance that it cannot stand for a day or two.

The notice was allowed to stand.

THE ADDRESS.

THE DEBATE CONTINUED.

The Order of the Day having been called,

Resuming the further adjourned debate on the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech on the opening of the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said: Hon. gentlemen, when on a motion by myself the debate yesterday evening was adjourned, I had been endeavouring to answer some of the objections that had been urged by hon. gentlemen to the contract made between the government and Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann. I might sum up in a few words the reasons that prompted us to enter into the contract at the time we did. We could have had a line constructed from the head of the Lynn Canal across United States territory up to navigable waters at a very much less cost; no doubt parties would have been willing to have constructed that time although no positive offer was made that I am aware of, but it was impossible for us to consider any proposal of that kind in view of the manner in which the Canadian merchants and Canadians going in over United States territory had been treated by the Customs Department of the United States. We were deluged with telegrams from boards of trade and commercial houses all over this country, for five or six weeks before parliament met, calling our attention to the obstructions in the way of establishing trade with the Klondike region in consequence of the difficulties encountered in crossing through the United States territory. I do not propose to discuss what occurred in our correspondence with the United States. It might not be seemly or proper to do so here. Also looking at the country and the opportunities for winter navigation at the Lynn Canal, there is no doubt whatever that nature has pointed out that as the proper way of obtaining entry into our own territory.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—You mean the Lynn Canal.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes. It is the shortest and the quickest, because it is only 700 miles by sea from Victoria or Vancouver, and it is accessible at all seasons of the year; although the passes are difficult, engineering skill would probably have overcome the difficulties, if a fair arrangement could have been made with our neighbours in reference to a railway through that portion of their territory, or had they even consented to have adopted a line of communication between the territories of the two countries. But as, during the last twenty years, it has been found impossible by former governments to get the consent of