

took the chair at the ordinary hour for meeting, and I know that I came into the House somewhat after the usual hour and I was here in time to vote upon the subject. The calling of the "yeas" and "nays" does not prevent any member from speaking. It is only after the members are called in that hon. gentlemen are precluded from entering upon a discussion.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I do not share the opinion of my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), and I think that in a matter of the importance of this Bill, time might be given for a fair consideration of it. I for one, Mr. Speaker, was taken by surprise last night. I could not accept the Bill in its shape as introduced by the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), but I had intended to move an amendment to it and to substitute something else in the place of it. I had just begun to write the amendment, thinking that the hon. gentleman would give a reason for the faith that was in him, a reason why he moved the second reading of the Bill, and that I would have had time to write the resolution amending it. However, the debate was shut off, after ample opportunity was given to the hon. gentleman to speak, no doubt, and it simply remained to me to vote for or against the Bill. I hope the House will allow the Bill to be reintroduced.

Mr. MCGREGOR. I was present when the motion for the second reading was called last evening, and I saw the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) sitting in his place, and I heard the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) saying "yeas" and "nays," after you, Mr. Speaker, had given ample time for discussion. We expected that the hon. member would speak on the motion, but he did not, and I feel satisfied that ample time was given for discussion. We have had enough fooling with this question already, and if the hon. gentleman is in earnest let him be in earnest and come forward with his Bill properly.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I trust you will allow me the indulgence of the House to say this: The reason I did not speak in moving the second reading of the Bill was just as the hon. the leader of the Opposition has said. I made my statement when I introduced the Bill. That is the proper time, when introducing a Bill in the hands of a private member, to explain it, and having only one opportunity of speaking I exercised my right to reserve what I had to say until I heard the statement against the measure. That is the course I took two years ago, and that is the course I intended to take on this occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am very sorry indeed that that hon. member should have thought that I allowed him to be taken by surprise when the motion was put to the House last night. I do not understand that the rule requires that a motion should be put a second time before calling the "yeas" and the "nays." The motion was put from the Chair for the second reading of the Bill, and I waited a considerable time, as every member will bear testimony, to ascertain whether anybody desired to speak, but the cries of "lost" and "carried" came from both sides of the House. In my opinion the "nays" had it, and I so expressed it, but even then I would have been willing to have allowed the discussion to go on if any member had chosen to rise after I had so expressed my opinion. After

the members are called in, however, as every hon. member knows, no discussion can be permitted. In future, if the House thinks it desirable that the question should be put twice from the Chair, I have no objection.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. SPEAKER. I may say in regard to this present motion, that it is in order. If the hon. gentleman desires to withdraw it, it may be withdrawn if the House consents to it.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I will withdraw if the House desires it.

Mr. SPEAKER. Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. gentleman shall have permission to withdraw?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Withdraw.

Mr. WALLACE. I do not think the motion should be withdrawn, because, from whatever cause it is, a number of hon. gentlemen in this House who have been anxious to speak on this question were prevented from so doing. I think the blame rests with the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) in the first place, in not allowing it to be known when such an important measure as this is coming up, that he intends to bring it before the attention of the House at a particular time, and that he does not intend to speak upon it. I know, for my own part, that I came into the House just as Mr. Speaker was saying "call in the members." If I had known the Bill would have come up so early I would have been here to offer a few remarks on it, as I intended to do; but I was prevented from having the opportunity. I think, therefore, permission should be given to reintroduce the Bill.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I submit that this is not a question which should be decided specially with reference to the present motion of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), because it involves a parliamentary precedent and a parliamentary right. If, when the motion was made that the Bill be now read a second time, an amendment had been moved that the Bill should not be read then, but should be read this day three months or six months; then the question would have been disposed of entirely. The only question before the House last night was "that the Bill should be now read a second time," and that was the only question disposed of. It is open to the hon. gentleman, and it is his right, to put his Bill on the Order Paper without any motion in this House, because the only question which the House has passed on is, "Shall the Bill be now read a second time?" As no amendment was then moved that the Bill should not be read, it is still before Parliament, and still within the hon. gentleman's power to put it on the Paper. I deprecate the introduction of a new rule in this matter, at variance with constitutional practice and precedents.

Mr. SPEAKER. The rule as laid down by Dr. Bourinot in the last edition of his book is as follows:—

"If a resolution adverse to the Bill be resolved in the affirmative: or the motion, 'that the Bill be now read a second time,' be simply negatived on a division, the measure will disappear from the order book, but it may be revived at any subsequent time, as the House has only decided that it should not then be read a second time, and the order previously made for the second reading remains good. When a Bill disappears in this way from