

to ask for redress of grievances before granting Supply to the Crown.

Private members' day will become a thing of the past under this system. Of course hon. gentlemen opposite tell us that it will not; that you can always move motions. My hon. friend from Portage la Prairie will make an argument that you can move a motion to do anything in this House after these rules are put in force and he will make a pretty good argument, too, although of course he will not be right. You will not get a Speaker to decide that way after the rules are put into force. We will be told that private members can always move motions. There is a beautiful instance of the way in which private legislation and individual effort to bring about reforms are encouraged by this Government. Upon the very first day of this session, the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Bradbury) placed upon the Order Paper two Bills, one in regard to the use of flags and the other in regard to the pollution of navigable waters. He has never moved them to the second reading. No other private Bill which has been introduced this session, whether by an hon. gentleman on this side of the House or by an hon. gentleman opposite, has been moved to the second reading. The Premier does not facilitate the second reading of Bills that even his supporters introduce. Even under the present rules, this Government has succeeded in paralyzing the legislation of this House and the right of private members to move in regard to matters of importance. What will happen when we will have about two private members' days at the beginning of the session, and when this great Government, which has so much legislation to do, will tell the people and the representatives of the people: There is no room for you in this House at all; we are the machine that is running this Parliament and this country and our decrees must be registered.

Why is this encroachment upon the rights of the people of this country? Oh, says some hon. gentleman, because it exists in the British Parliament. That ends the whole thing. Do not talk about it. That is the attitude that is intended to go with a good many people in this country who will not stop to think. What are the conditions in the British House of Commons? There are six hundred and seventy members in a chamber smaller than this; they legislate for over forty million people; they legislate in regard to all the subjects which this Parliament would have to legislate for, if we had all the work that is done by the nine legislatures that obtain in this Dominion outside of the federal Parliament. If we had to legislate for British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, the Maritime provinces with their

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individual legislatures, if all the business of these nine legislatures were thrown into this House in addition to the business which we now have, then my hon. friends might have some argument for introducing rules to limit debate. As we do not legislate in regard to matters of a private and local nature, as our conditions are entirely different from those in the British House of Commons, as in England to-day they legislate about the smallest matter that affects a crofter in the north of Scotland or anybody who lives in the farming district of Ireland, as they have no local legislatures of any kind, as anybody who sits down and looks at their 'Hansard' and studies their debates will see that they have the greatest and the most unwieldy parliamentary machine that is to be found anywhere in the world, and as it is impossible, as Ireland has long said, as Scotland says, as Wales says, for that Parliament to legislate satisfactorily, even under the stringent rules that they have imposed there, for the local and important interests that affect the United Kingdom, yet because a parliament of that kind, clogged as it is with all these interests of the smallest importance to questions of great foreign policy, has the closure, we in Canada must have a closure in order to be fashionable. We cannot build ships in Canada; we must go over to England to build them. They have a closure in England, so I suppose we must have one here. My friends were over in England last summer and they got this English fashion. A little microbe entered into their composition and when they got back to Canada they said: We must have one of these things too; we must have the closure. My hon. friend, the eloquent and interesting member for Brandon (Mr. Aikins), after hunting all over the world, found a closure everywhere. He did not venture to present Russia to this House as an example; that would have been going a little too far. I happen to have under my hand a statutory document containing an inquiry that was made in England in 1908, which shows that they have no closure in Austria, France, Germany or Spain. They have it in Russia. And between the desire on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite to be fashionable and the desire to boss everybody, we have here a sort of Russo-English combination perpetrated in Canada. And they turn to the United States for an example. They tell us that the United States House of Representatives has a closure, and we should have one too.

Mr. WILSON (Laval): Reciprocity.

Mr. MACDONALD: I suppose it is a new phase of reciprocity. Now, anybody who knows anything about the Government of the United States knows the complete dissimilarity of conditions between the