

Bill, and I will consent to the second reading, without its going to the Railway Committee.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.

On section 1,

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I presume this Bill is in the same terms as the Bill passed last year by this House, with the exception of the date?

Mr. LANCASTER. Exactly. The only difference is that it will come into force in 1909 instead of 1908.

Mr. FIELDING. I think the expression 'thickly peopled portion of any city' might be a difficult one to interpret, though I cannot suggest anything better.

Mr. LANCASTER. That has always been in the statute, though the point has been discussed a good deal in the Railway Committee. But those words have been in the statute since 1859, and have been the subject of a judicial interpretation, and we think it better to leave them.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

#### CO-OPERATION.

On the order:

Second reading of Bill (No. 5) respecting Co-operation.—Mr. Monk.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). Will my hon. friend consent to have this Bill postponed until the return of the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux)?

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Will he soon be back?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is too much to ask me at this moment. I presume the Bill will go through.

Mr. MONK. The reason I ask is that my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) was the chairman of the special committee which investigated and examined this Bill with great care last year. He took a lively interest in it, and concurred absolutely with the recommendations of the committee, in fact it was he who prepared the Bill. It appears from that report of the committee that the measure is one which should be adopted without delay. The Postmaster General having concurred in the Bill as it was amended by the committee, I would not like his prolonged absence to prevent the passage of the Bill, for reasons which it is unnecessary for me to state now. You might let it stand to-day, with the understanding that if my right hon. friend thinks fit, it shall stand over until after the Christmas vacation.

Mr. GRAHAM

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If the return of my colleague were to be, as the hon. gentleman thinks, unreasonably late, the Bill might be proceeded with at the present time.

Mr. MONK. Will the right hon. gentleman consent to leave it on the Order Paper as it is?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

#### HOURS OF ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. A. A. WRIGHT (South Renfrew) moved:

That it is desirable in the interests of good legislation that the rules of the House of Commons should be amended so as to provide that the hour of adjournment of the House of Commons should (excepting on extraordinary occasions to be decided by the government), be fixed, when there are evening sittings, at not later than 10.30 p.m.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for no radical change, for no very drastic measure. I am merely asking that the machinery which is now in motion should have some regulating device so that it should not run perpetually but come to an end some time earlier in the night than it does now. Before proceeding further perhaps it is right that I should explain what is meant by an extraordinary occasion. In reference to this I would refer you to what took place in the session of 1903 when we were passing the Railway Act. When we came to a certain portion of that Act we found that even the officers of the House were at a loss to know just exactly what was the mode of procedure which we should adopt. We then had several conferences with the Senate, we went backwards and forwards several times before we came to an arrangement, and the House finally adjourned about 1 or 1.30 o'clock next morning. This certainly would come under the head of an extraordinary occasion, and it would be left for the government to say what is or what is not an extraordinary occasion. What are the reasons for asking for this change? Take for example the case of a member who is anxious to discharge his duties faithfully and intelligently in the interest of his constituency and in the interest of the country; what has he to do? As a general thing most members are on three or four important committees. These commence in the morning, say, at ten o'clock, and one will perhaps be over at eleven. Then, the member will go to a meeting of another committee and remain there from 11 until the adjournment for lunch. Then he comes back to the sitting of the House at three and he remains here until six o'clock when the House adjourns for dinner, he comes back at eight o'clock and remains here perhaps until all hours of the morning. Under such circumstances what chance has that