

Railways. These have always been printed, and are more conveniently printed, nearer to the points where they are needed, and the Bill guards the public Treasury by enacting that they shall be printed at no greater cost than they could be printed for at the Bureau. They are to be supervised by the Superintendent of Printing.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee).

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). We are allowing these Bills to go through with a great deal of facility, and I hope the hon. gentleman is not leaving another Bill to be taken up later.

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Bill reported, and read the third time and passed.

THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Foster for second reading of Bill (No. 114) respecting the Speaker of the Senate.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Surely the hon. gentleman does not intend to force this Bill through. He knows that it is liable to most serious objections. He knows that it is a Bill which under ordinary circumstances would not be allowed to pass this House without a very important debate. He knows that it involves a great constitutional question. Surely, under these circumstances, he is not going to attempt to force it through. I can assure him that if he does, he has not the power to do so. He knows that there are questions of prerogative involved in it, that the probability is that if it passed it would be reserved, and that the very strong probability is that it would be disallowed. I tell the hon. gentleman distinctly that this Bill is not going to be allowed to pass.

Mr. OUIMET. This Bill is nothing more than a matter of the internal economy of the Senate, and I think it would be an act of discourtesy on the part of this House not to pass it and allow it afterwards to be submitted to the legal test to which it must be subjected before it becomes law. If this House wanted to pass a small Bill in order to facilitate its business, I am sure that the hon. member for Bothwell would consider it a great discourtesy to us if the Senate should stop it on a legal point which after all would have to be tested and decided somewhere else. After the legal argument of my hon. friend from Albert (Mr. Weldon) the other night, surely there are very few minds that are not satisfied that this Bill is constitutional, and I would ask that, although it is late in the session, the Bill should be allowed to go through as a matter of courtesy to the Senate, and I am sure that there will be no

reason, from a constitutional point of view, to regret having done so.

Mr. FLINT. If this were simply a Bill regulating the internal economy of the Senate, and involving no important points such as those raised by my hon. friend from Bothwell, the argument of the Minister would be very pertinent and powerful. But, if I understood correctly the argument of my hon. friend, the questions raised by him were of very great magnitude and moment. The Bill was discussed at great length and with marked ability on the same lines in the Senate. A great many members of this House were not aware of the importance of the Bill or of the question raised by it, and it does not do for us at this stage of the session to put aside those weighty considerations and pass the Bill solely on the ground of convenience. I understand that several of the leading legal minds of the House had formed pretty strong opinions on the measure, but owing to the lateness of the session they found it inconvenient to be here to discuss it. I think it will be far better to allow this measure to stand over, inasmuch as it can create no present inconvenience, and it can be brought up again next session either in this form or in a form more acceptable, when it can be fully debated. Probably if the same object could be accomplished by a change in the rules of the Senate, there would be very little objections raised. I do trust that at this late hour of the session the Minister will not press the Bill, because there is no doubt that it would lead to the raising of questions which could only be settled at great expense to the Treasury of the country, and we should be no farther ahead at the lapse of ten or twelve months than we are to-day.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not suppose that anything can be gained by discussing the Bill at any greater length. Opinions differ as to its constitutionality. Very strong opinions are held on both sides of the question in the Senate, and after a full discussion there the weight of opinion was overwhelmingly in favour of passing the Bill. The Bill was discussed here, not at great length, but with marked ability by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) and the hon. member for Albert (Mr. Weldon), and the House has seen these two men learned in the law expressing opinions diametrically opposed to each other. Every one admits, as a matter of common sense and business, that it would be a great convenience to the Senate if the Speaker had power to call a member to the Chair when he was forced to leave the Chamber, or if there were some means by which the Chair could be constitutionally and legally filled when the Speaker was unavoidably absent. It is under these circumstances that the Bill comes before us to-day, and I would be very glad to see it pass. Of course, the rules of the House are rules, and if hon. gentlemen are inexorable they can push their rights to the full. I would like