

practical problems of an economic nature and their solution, or to deal with problems affecting the members' local or national interest.

It is pretty nearly time that private members' day was abolished altogether and that such questions as those which now appear on the order paper were dealt with when the estimates for the different departments come up. When you reflect upon the extent to which the order paper is filled with motions referring to a lot of academic questions, I think the people of Canada can congratulate themselves that we have a Senate to save us from the deluge of legislation which hon. gentlemen and some others would place on the statute books. We should have shorter sessions of parliament. We cannot expect members to sit here, day in and day out, for months, listening to discussions on academic questions. The legislature of Ontario, with a very large legislative programme to deal with, can get through in six or eight weeks, and I submit that this parliament should complete its work in from two and a half to three months, if it had up to date rules to provide for modern methods of dealing with the problems which come before it. We should have shorter speeches; we should limit the time for speeches; there should be a committee before whom all resolutions should be submitted before presentation to the House. The special committee which is to deal with the rules of the House this session would do a good work for the people of Canada if it recommended the bringing down of legislation such as they have in the British parliament, whereby discussion is curtailed and a proper closure rule enforced. The hon. member for Brant is very fortunate to-day. If he has this small attendance out of an audience of two hundred and thirty-five, how many would he have if his resolution were adopted? I am afraid he would talk to empty benches; that he would have no listeners at all.

One of the reasons why members do not sit continuously in the House on private members' day is because of the purely academic questions which are brought up. Consider the many practical problems that are at present before the people—unemployment; the social condition of the country; the transportation problem; the condition of trade, commerce and industry; agriculture, and so on. Not one of the resolutions at present on the order paper relates to the accomplishing of anything in a practical way to solve the practical or economic problems which confront us, whether they pertain to the Maritime provinces, to the west or to central Canada. And I may say just here that the west spends months telling us of its ills and woes and is happy, when sending de-

putations to Ottawa to place before the government the conditions in that part of the country. The same may be said of the Maritime provinces. It is about time central Canada woke up and sent some deputations to Ottawa to deal with matters affecting its interests long overlooked. Central Canada is too modest, it has paid most of the taxes since confederation and it is time it woke up and sent along a deputation to tell Ottawa of its ills and then west and east would see they were well off.

I repeat that the government ought to take steps to bring down modern rules with a view to shortening the session. No one but a rich man can afford to be a member of this parliament, owing to the way our antiquated rules permit the lengthening out of the sessions to five months of the year. We sat until July 19th last year; then with the holiday season coming on in July and August the best of the year is practically gone. Members of the cabinet are busy men; they have important departments to preside over, and their time is unnecessarily taken up in listening to the discussion of academic questions on private members' day in the House. I have looked over the resolutions on the order paper from first to last, and the only academic subject that seems to have been omitted from the bill of fare is that important question: How old is Anne? If that was included then the bill of fare would be complete. Why, there are more practical problems dealt with in an ordinary meeting of the mock parliament of a Canadian university in this country than there have been during the past month or two in this House on private members' days. Private members' day should now be abolished for this session and then, any of these remaining questions can be discussed on the estimates. For my part, I am willing to facilitate the business of the House by dealing with my resolutions in that way; and I have three on the order paper, with reference to such questions as coal, unemployment, the exodus and soldiers' re-establishment. I do not think that the adoption of my hon. friend's resolution would have the effect of increasing efficiency. The size of a legislature has nothing to do with efficiency nor with the number who attend. For the reason I have stated Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to my hon. friend's motion.

Mr. W. G. McQUARRIE (New Westminster): It seems to me that the great trouble with this House so far as the committees are concerned is that we do not get down to business soon enough. I think I am correct in stating that last year there were no