

provision of the old statute, if my recollection serves me right, for the entry of these articles free terminated on the 1st July, and this is to extend its operation.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think it will be found that this bill, and the other bills that will be sent down to this chamber, are bills that have only been introduced by the government within the last three or four days, and parliament has not had an opportunity to discuss them during the past four months. My recollection of the bills that are now engrossing the attention of another branch of parliament is that many of these bills are not even printed, that they have been placed on the order paper for the first time within the last forty-eight hours.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—We are not discussing those bills now.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—An observation was dropped by the hon. gentleman which, I think, requires some explanation—that prorogation is delayed till 8 o'clock to-morrow evening to discuss measures that might have been discussed at any time within the last four months. It is scarcely a fair imputation, when the measures which are brought down have not really been before Parliament until within the last forty-eight hours.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—How long have the supplementary estimates been down?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They were not introduced by the government until the last three or four days.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Oh, yes.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I fully recognize the force of the observations of the leader of the opposition. I only regret that he did not go a little further. There are occasions when public men tell, I will not say half the truth, but half what should be told. The estimates have been before the Commons for two months.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Oh, no.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Refer to the Journals and you will find that that is correct. I now refer to the supplementary estimates of the current year—not the supplementary estimates for 1896-97. Although the main estimates have been

before Parliament for a month or two, he knows and has had sufficient experience to know that supplementary estimates are scarcely ever laid on the table until the main estimates have been considered and passed, if important questions had not been discussed. he knows, and so does the House, and so does the country why they have not been discussed. Was it necessary, before the house could get into Committee, to sit from 3 o'clock Monday afternoon until 12 o'clock Saturday night doing nothing in the world but discussing whether the committee should rise or not in order to frustrate the progress of business, I scarcely think it lies in the mouth of those who belong to the same party to accuse the Government of not bringing its measures before Parliament. What my hon. friend says is true, however. The small Government bills which have been introduced of late have not been before Parliament any length of time, but notwithstanding that fact, they are of such a character that I am quite sure my hon. friend, no matter what his party proclivities may be, will not vote against them. This is a bill to assist to the greatest possible extent in the developing of our mining interests in this country, which are at the present moment of vital importance to those who are engaged in them, and more particularly to the country generally. I do not suppose my hon. friend objects to this Bill.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Certainly not.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Or to the suspension of the rule. It is a very small bill but an important one, and is one in the interests of the country, like all bills that are proposed by the government.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I regret that the leader of the government should have thought it necessary to refer to the action of the other branch of parliament—

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Only to your own friends.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That is not the question. The hon. gentleman described the action of the members of the other branch of parliament as being obstructive.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—So it was.