

I do not suppose that we shall trifle with tender consciences by sitting on Thursday.

**Mr. WALLACE.** If the House would sit on Thursday, and not sit on Wednesday, it would suit the convenience of members much better.

**Mr. FOSTER.** Call Wednesday Ascension Day.

**Mr. McMULLEN.** I would suggest that the Government give Saturday of next week to private members, in place of Monday. There are a great many items in the Public Bills and Orders. It is within the knowledge of the House that the entire time of the last session of the last Parliament was taken up with the Remedial Bill, so that there was no legislation at all, and in the last session of this Parliament there was no time for legislation in the hands of private members. This year, owing to the Queen's Jubilee, the Government are trying to get through with the business of the session, and I do not for a moment wish to stand in their way; at the same time, there are no less than twenty-four Bills in Public Bills and Orders, some reached once, and some twice, and I would suggest that the Government take into their consideration whether they would not give us Saturday of next week for private members instead of Monday. We have to be here, and let us have that day as well as the following Monday, and we shall be able to get through the list pretty well.

**The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.** We will consider the hon. gentleman's suggestion between this and Tuesday.

Motion agreed to.

#### ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.** The Speaker of the House of Commons has received the following letter from His Excellency the Governor General's secretary:—

Governor General's Office,  
Ottawa, 21st May, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber this afternoon, at 5 o'clock, for the purpose of giving assent to such Bills as have been passed by Parliament.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

DAVID ERSKINE,  
Governor General's Secretary.

#### FAST ATLANTIC SS. SERVICE.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce to a statement which appears in this morning's "Citizen"

Within a day or two Sir Richard Cartwright may be able to make the announcement in the House, that the contract made with Messrs.

Peterson, Tate & Company, of Newcastle, for a fast Atlantic service, has been concluded. The terms of this offer, entailing a subsidy of \$500,000 a year from the Dominion Treasury for ten years, have already been embodied in a provisional contract with the Canadian Government, and has only awaited the sanction of the Imperial authorities. This, it is learned, has been obtained. The Government yesterday received a telegram from Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, stating that the contract, which had been under consideration for some time by the Admiralty, had been approved by the Imperial Government. And this is understood to mean that Her Majesty's Government has also consented to contribute the promised annual subsidy of \$350,000.

Is this information authentic?

**The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright).** No notification, so far as I am advised, has been received from the Imperial authorities.

#### SUPPLY BILL—QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

Bill (No. 112) for granting to Her Majesty the sum of \$26,000, required for defraying certain expenses of the militia contingent to be sent to England for the jubilee of Her Majesty in June, 1897, was considered in committee, reported, and read the third time and passed.

#### PROTECTION OF NAVIGABLE WATERS.

Bill (No. 105) to amend the Act respecting the protection of navigable waters was read the second time, and the House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

**The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies).** The only object is to enable the department to remove obstructions in navigable waters without incurring liability to the owners of wrecks, and the immediate object is to remove a wreck from a ledge lying off a harbour in British Columbia. It provides that if the proprietor of the wreck does not remove it, we can remove it at his expense. The Bill passed the Senate under the late Government, but was not in time to pass this House, and having received the approval of both Governments, it cannot be the subject of any controversy.

Bill reported.

#### SUPPLY—ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE** moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** Before you leave the Chair, I would like to call the attention of the Government to the question of the Alaskan boundary. I see by the papers that an agreement has been entered