

thority. I submit a copy of rules and regulations of the Grand Trunk Railway as to pension fund, in accordance with the hon. gentleman's request.

THE BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN moved :

That the resolution passed by the Senate on the 12th instant, proposing a Joint Committee of Conference of both Houses, with a view of securing a better division of the Bills introduced at each session and devising means whereby the business of parliament may be expedited and the sessions shortened, be forwarded by the proper officer of the Senate to the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. DeBOUCHERVILLE—This motion does not correspond with the motion which I find in the minutes of the 13th of May, and to which it refers. The motion carried on the 13th inst., is as follows:

That the Senate deems it expedient to invite the House of Commons to co-operate with it by means of a Joint Committee to consider the advisability of devising methods whereby a more equal division of the initiation of private and public legislation may be secured between the two branches of parliament, and adopting rules governing debate which will limit the time of discussion so as to better expedite business.

I think it would be more regular to follow the language of the resolution adopted by the House.

The SPEAKER—The point raised by the hon. gentleman is that the statement in the motion now before the House does not exactly cover the resolution passed on the 13th of May; but I consider that the narration in the motion before us is but a summary of the resolution; it is not this motion that will be sent to the House of Commons, but the motion of the 13th of May last. Therefore it is sufficient if the resolution of the 13th of May is properly indicated, and I consider that this motion is in order.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—It is exceedingly indiscreet for the Senate to undertake to dictate to the House of Commons how they should do their business and whether they should make long speeches or short speeches. The House of Commons is a representative body elected by the people, and responsible to the people for the way they transact the business of the country.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

We in this Chamber are not responsible to the people in the same way, and we are overstepping the mark when we undertake to say to the members of the popular branch how they shall conduct their business. For that reason, I shall oppose this motion. The hon. gentleman said the other day that he would have the closure adopted to prevent long speeches, and he also undertook to say that the length of the session was due to the long speeches in the House of Commons and the desire of members to obstruct legislation. I do not think that is correct. The members of the House of Commons are trying to do their duty to their constituents. They are elected to carry on the affairs of the country, and are responsible to the people for the way they discharge their duty. I find in looking over the history of this session, last session and the session before, that a great deal of time has been spent in the House of Commons in defending the rights of the people as against certain persons to whom the government pay large amounts of money in an improper manner, and when a motion is made to appoint a committee to look into the misconduct of certain officials, the passage of the motion is obstructed by long discussions. Then, when an inquiry is granted, and the investigation begins before a special committee, certain members try to prevent that inquiry being effected in every way they can. My idea is that members are elected to work in the public interest and not to help the government or any person in the government employ. If a government official does wrong, it is as much the duty of the government as of the opposition to hold that official responsible for his conduct, and it would be much better if the government would see that the affairs of the country are conducted in a proper manner instead of protecting people who are doing wrong. For the last two sessions it has been one continual inquiry into the administration of affairs by government officials. It is said that we cannot purchase anything for the government except through middlemen, and the money of the country has been expended in various improper ways. We have had the Arctic expedition inquiry, the Atlantic Trading