

dealing with this subject, and saw on the paper a notice of that kind in my name. It was on for a long time, and when the Speaker, from day to day called my name, I raised my hat, and said "stand." I thought that I had given a memorandum to the Clerk of the House, and thereupon I put in my Bill; but the notice was really given by my hon. friend the member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) although my name was put down for it. I wish now to have the order discharged, so that my hon. friend from Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) may be able to place his Bill on the paper, and have the precedence to which he is entitled.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BILLS.

Mr. CASEY moved :

That the report of the Special Committee to whom were referred Bills No. 2 and No. 3, be now adopted.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). What is the tenor of that report ?

Mr. CASEY. The report merely asks that the quorum be reduced from six members to five, and that we shall have authority to employ a shorthand reporter to record such evidence as we desire to take.

Mr. FOSTER. Would the hon. gentleman say what number of members are on the committee ?

Mr. CASEY. Ten.

Mr. FOSTER. That seems a small quorum.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE BILLS—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEES.

Mr. FRASER moved :

That the order of this House of Friday, the 23rd instant, referring to Bill (No. 40) to incorporate the Maritime Milling Company (Limited), to the Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, be rescinded, and that the said Bill be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. SUTHERLAND moved :

That the order of this House of Friday, the 23rd of April, instant, referring Bill (No. 44) respecting the Welland Power and Supply Canal Power Company (Limited) to the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, be rescinded, and the said Bill be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would like to mention to the House that it would be very convenient if hon. members would make up their minds, when moving for the reference of Bills to committees, which committees they should be referred to. The question is usually left in the hands of the Chair, and

Mr. DAVIN.

I can only judge from the title of a Bill to which committee it should go. So that if hon. members will be good enough to make up their minds in the first instance as to what committee each Bill should be referred to, it would save a great deal of trouble of this kind.

Motion agreed to.

MOUNTED POLICE PENSION ACT.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 59) to amend the Mounted Police Pension Act, 1889. He said: This is the Bill to which my hon. friend from Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) referred a few moments ago. I gave notice of this Bill, and, as the hon. gentleman has told you, he introduced a Bill on my notice. I cannot understand this, and I consider it a very serious matter. Had it been a new member of the House who had made this mistake, I could have understood it; but I cannot understand a gentleman of the long parliamentary experience of the member for Western Assiniboia making a mistake of that kind. I have heard the hon. gentleman rise in this House and quote authorities on parliamentary procedure, and yet we find him doing something which even a new member, probably myself, would not have done. I beg to move for leave to introduce this Bill.

Mr. DAVIN. I am very much obliged to my hon. friend for his reference; but I may say that if the hon. member would write his name plainly, the Clerk above stairs would not probably make such a mistake as has been made in this instance; and if the hon. member had been in his place, from day to day, when the Bill was called, and had seen me lift my hat and say: "Stand," then the mistake would not have happened. The very moment the matter came to my knowledge and I reflected over it, I went to the Clerk, and asked him how it could be put right, and how Mr. Davis could best be placed in a position of precedence. I think the moral is that gentlemen should either take care or learn to write their names plainly, and also that they should be in their places.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). I would like to explain to the hon. gentleman—

Mr. DAVIN. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. If it is a matter of personal explanation, the hon. member may speak.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). The hon. gentleman has referred to the way in which I wrote my name. I wish to draw his attention to the Notice of Motion as printed on the 13th of April:

Mr. DAVIS—On Thursday next—Bill intituled: "An Act to amend the Act authorizing the granting of Pensions to the North-west Mounted Police Force, Chap. 26, 52 Victoria."