

HON. MR. ABBOTT—How long would the hon. gentleman like to have ?

HON. MR. POWER—To-morrow would do.

HON. MR. VIDAL, from the committee, reported that they had made some progress with the Bill, and asked leave to sit again.

CITIZENS' INSURANCE CO.'S BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (H) "An Act respecting the Citizens' Insurance Company." He said: This is a private Bill for a company which has the misfortune to have me for the president, and the object of it is to readjust the capital of the company. It was a marine, life, fire, accident and guarantee insurance company, and did not do as well as it might have done with these numerous businesses. Last year, after my election, all the business was struck off except the fire. It is now a fire insurance pure and simple, as far as its business is concerned. What is sought by this Bill is to have the large unpaid capital reduced under an obligation of increasing the paid up capital, and that all these functions of life, guarantee, marine, etc., be struck out of the powers conferred by the charter.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not rise for the purpose of objecting to the second reading of this Bill, but I wish to call attention to the fact that this Bill has not been distributed to members, and that leads me to advert to what must have struck every hon. member of this House—to the very unsatisfactory manner in which the printing has been done this year. The Minutes of one day's work are not laid on the desks of members until a very short time before the meeting of the House, and the Government and other Bills are far too long in making their way to us from the time they are placed in the hands of the clerks. I hope the hon. leader of the House, who is more interested in the matter than any one else, will try and see that this mischief is remedied in the future.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Perhaps there are some special reasons why the business cannot be conducted as promptly as heretofore.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I observed yesterday, with reference to the Bills which I brought under the notice of the House, that they were not distributed until about the time the House met, although they were introduced on the previous Friday. I brought the matter up before my friend the Minister to-day, and he promised to inquire into it and see that, if the fault had been with the Department, no such delays should in future occur. The Bills were in type on Friday and might have been struck off and distributed on Saturday afternoon without any difficulty at all. The Minister has promised to look into it, and if they are in fault to put it right, and if not to let me know who is to blame for the delay in the printing. I am in hopes that there will be no further delays of the kind.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The Minutes of Proceedings are behind hand, but there is reason for it.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I am told by the Clerk that the Minutes are exceedingly voluminous, and that in consequence of the enormous number of names which have to be set up it takes a longer time than usual to have them printed. I do not think that it will happen again.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

The Senate adjourned at 4.25 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, June 4th, 1891.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (J) "An Act for the relief of Thomas Bristow." (Mr. Clemow.)

Bill (K) "An Act for the relief of Isabella Tapley." (Mr. McInnes, B.C.)

Bill (L) "An Act incorporating the Incorporated Construction Company of Canada." (Mr. Almon.)