

and in the House, on this Bill. I would not like to ask anything unreasonable in the way of postponement; at the same time we all know what a great interest the hon. member for South Toronto has taken in this Bill. He gave up some very important engagements in Toronto in order to come up last night and be here to-day. He consulted with me before he left. If the chairman could see his way clear to postpone it for another day, I think I can assure him that there will be no undue delay in pressing it through. There is no obstruction so far as I know in reference to this Bill. Certain parties have taken very strong grounds on it and have felt obliged to push their reasons so far as they could. On behalf of the hon. member for South Toronto, I would very much like if the Bill could be held over until another day.

Mr. CLARKE. So far as I am concerned I would be glad to accommodate the hon. gentleman. But I have also put off engagements at different times in consequence of this Bill and I have matters now which may take me away at any day, and when it comes up again I may be away. I know that the member for South Toronto would be satisfied if we reserved the Bill for the third reading, when he can be here and move his amendments.

Mr. GRAHAM. I got the same telegram from the hon. member for South Toronto (Mr. Macdonell) and I want to meet every person's wishes. He suggested in the telegram and I think that what he really expects is that we shall not, at least, proceed with the third reading. He has an amendment which he wishes to move, he wishes to offer some reasons for this amendment and I do not want to deprive him or anybody else of the fullest opportunity of doing so. It would meet the suggestion which is implied in the telegram if we deferred the third reading. I am inclined to think that it would be better for the discussion to take place on the third reading than in committee, for he will then have an opportunity of dividing the House.

Mr. FOSTER. The minister is somewhat of a mind reader.

Mr. SPROULE. My hon. friend from South Toronto (Mr. Macdonell) and my hon. friend from South Simcoe (Mr. Lennox) desired to offer their amendments in Committee of the Whole so that they would be entitled, in the event of opposition, to speak more than once on them and state their views. It is their desire to move these amendments and to discuss them, not with the intention of unnecessarily delaying the passage of the Bill, because they have both reached the conclusion that the Bill is going to pass, but to place themselves on record, and I think it would be better to move

these amendments in committee than to do it on the third reading.

Mr. PATERSON. I notice that in one of the leading papers, with reference to the French treaty, it is said that the government were not ready with their business. That is rather a reflection. I understand the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) has been anxious to put that Bill through and if I remember aright the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) asked that it might stand over on his account and it has stood over. I think that the hon. member for North Toronto, if that is so, should rise and say that he was sorry to see such an article in the newspapers when it was such an unjust reflection upon the government and when the delay was absolutely due to himself. Such a wrong impression should not be allowed to go through the country.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Paterson) is too sweet altogether. The government must always be large enough to take these criticisms from the newspapers, but I think that if I asked that it be left over it was because there was some deficiency in the information—was there not?

Mr. PATERSON. No.

Mr. FIELDING. The papers are loaded down with information.

Mr. FOSTER. 'Loaded down,' in the mind of my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and in my own mind, as regards information, are two different things. I think that what my hon. friend from South Toronto (Mr. Macdonell) really wishes is that the discussion in committee be left over, but if the government and my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke) who has charge of the Bill do not think that they can stretch a point, or if they do not think that the full measure of generosity should be given, why, half a bite is better than none and I think that my hon. friends may take the third reading as being the minimum of what he would like, although he is such a lovable member that I should think that possibly he would be willing to meet his desire.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This is not a matter with which the government has anything to do. This is the third Monday that this Bill has been on the Order Paper. It has been put off twice already.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, the government has it in its own hands, of course.

Mr. HENDERSON. Last Monday, when this Bill was before the committee, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Graham) made a statement in regard to an amendment which I had proposed with the view of securing the enforcement of clause 10 of the Bill intended to protect municipal