

the opinion of the House on the question of order. He has a right to do that.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—What is the question before the Chair? The hon. gentleman had no right to put that question. He can only put a question when he gives notice of it; otherwise the House does not know of it. I have not examined the rules sufficiently to know whether we can, by our *ipse dixit*, change the Rules of the House. The Rules are framed for the protection of the minority, and the majority cannot change them. The Rule says that you cannot dispense with any of the Rules if one member objects. The hon. gentleman is endeavouring to make the House declare that we shall not follow the Rules: that is tantamount to changing the Rules.

Hon. Mr. McMILLAN—The Chairman of the Committee has asked the House for instructions, and I think the House should give him these instructions.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—No hon. member has a right to ask for instructions. He can ask the opinion of the House as to what he might do in an informal way. He has no right to ask for instructions, because other instructions cannot be given to him unless a motion is made. The House can only manifest its feeling by means of a motion. I appeal to the hon. member on the other side who has just spoken and ask him, can a motion like this be sprung upon the House without giving notice, unless it is a question of adjournment.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—This whole discussion is as irregular as it could possibly be, but, as the hon. member who has just spoken indicated a moment ago, it arose from a difficulty that presented itself in the interpretation of the rule by the Chairman of the Railway Committee. I do not think my hon. friend from Alexandria can make the motion he has presented. The only way to arrive at it would be to make some motion, and, if it is declared out of order by the Speaker, appeal to the House against his decision. This mode is irregular. If the hon. gentleman desires to put an interpretation upon the rule which many of us think it would not bear, the only way he can do that is by giving notice and bringing it up to-morrow morning at the next sitting of

the House. It would be somewhat difficult to declare by resolution that a rule should be interpreted in direct opposition to the wording of the rule itself. You might pass a resolution repealing that rule and substituting another, and then declaring what its meaning should be, but certainly it would be, not only irregular, but something unprecedented, to pursue the course that my hon. friend suggests now.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY—I gather from the expressions of hon. gentlemen, more particularly on the other side of the House, that I shall be obliged to call the Committee together at a future date.

Hon. Mr. POWER—After the next sitting.

The Senate adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, March 30th, 1893.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 11 o'clock.

Routine proceedings.

THE PRINTING OF PARLIAMENT.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. READ (Quinte) moved the adoption of the Sixth Report of the Joint Committee of both houses on the Printing of Parliament. He said:—This report was read at length at the Table yesterday. It provides that certain documents be printed, and that certain documents be not printed, and also recommends that a copy of Blatch's Ready Reference to the Statutes of Canada be supplied to each member of both branches of the Parliament, and other minor matters.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I cannot approve of the item providing for the purchase of the "Ready Reference" for each member of both Houses. This book may be of some use to lawyers, but few of the members of the House will look at it; and this will involve a large expense at a time when the Government are endeavouring to reduce expense, as they did when dealing with the