

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman has not explained why this bill has only come in now. In the case of the bill which was introduced a few minutes ago by the hon. gentleman from Missisquoi, the hon. gentleman gave a reason why it had not been introduced earlier, but here is a bill which does not appear to be urgent in its character, and which is introduced on the last day of the session with a view, apparently, of escaping the scrutiny of the various committees of the House. I do not know very much about the millers of Manitoba, but probably it would be just as well for the farmers of Manitoba that the millers should not be allowed to form a combination like that.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—It was not possible to find committees to look after the different bills. The Railway Committee could not be gathered together and the Standing Orders Committee could not find a quorum, and this course has been adopted. The bill is not very important and that is the reason.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That does not answer my question. I asked why it was this bill only came to the House on the last day of the session. There may be some good and sufficient reason, but we have not heard it yet.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—It was on the order paper for a number of days and there was such obstruction in the House of Commons that it could not be got through.

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER—Everybody knows how the public business was blocked in the other House. This bill was on the order paper day after day and it could not be got through. The bills ahead of this one on the paper were opposed and blocked and there was no possibility of getting this bill in here before.

The motion was agreed to and the bill was read the second time.

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER moved the third reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Before this motion is carried, I should like to say a few words on the subject. It comes at a very late

hour of the session, and I do not propose to offer any obstruction, but still I cannot help calling the attention of Parliament to the character of the bill. It is one of those combinations, I might say, or monopolies that have been felt increasing with alarm among certain sections of the country. It is a species of combine by which the millers agree to cooperate with one another. I merely draw attention to the fact, because that class of legislation should be restricted as much as possible. I was requested by interested parties in the west, the farmers, to deal with this matter when the bill came before the Senate. I shall not detain the House or take up valuable time at the end of the session by any reference to it, further than to call attention to what I conceive to be the character of the bill.

The motion was agreed to and the bill was read the third time and passed under a suspension of the rule.

The Senate then adjourned.

Afternoon Sitting.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE SENATE DEBATES.

REPORT ADOPTED.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE moved concurrence in the Second report of the Debates Committee.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is not usual to take up the hands of a new parliament by making a regulation of this kind in advance. It may be a wise and prudent one, but it would be much better if the committee had left it to the next parliament to make the arrangement. It has never before been made in advance, but always during the life of the existing parliament. The judgment of gentlemen who may be on the committee next year, may be different from that of the Senators who compose the committee this year. I threw out the suggestion to-day that it was a mistake in paying this amount not to insist upon a certain space