

needs of the Dominion. We recognize that, and we accept the assurance which was certainly given by the leader of the Opposition that, speaking for the Opposition, he desired as far as possible that the discussion should be conducted in a factious spirit. I hope his friends will not go back on their leader in that respect. If there is an understanding that reasonable progress will be made then, I will move that the committee rise. But I would like to hear from the hon. member for Pictou, or from whoever is at present leading the Opposition, assurances on that point.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am not at present leading the Opposition, but I have no hesitation in telling the hon. gentleman that I am somewhat familiar with the discussions that have gone on among gentlemen on this side of the House, both with the leader, and among themselves, in regard to this Bill. I have heard no suggestion from any quarter that there was to be the slightest obstruction offered to a single clause. But I do know that a very large number of gentlemen, both of the legal profession and others, have given a great deal of attention to the Bill; some of them are not here to-night. I know that a number of gentlemen wish to give their opinions to the committee; and I am satisfied that whatever the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce understood from the leader of the Opposition could not have wished to convey that this week, at any rate, this Bill should go through it at a sitting, because he knew that the criticisms to be offered would make it impossible to do so, even if we sat all night. I feel warranted in speaking for the hon. gentlemen here now, that when the Bill is taken up again we will be only too glad to take advantage of the invitation of the Solicitor General to make such practical suggestions as we can to improve the measure. Many criticisms will doubtless be offered, not for the purpose of obstructing, but to illustrate our objections made on the second reading.

Mr. WALLACE. I think the Minister of Trade and Commerce will accept the statement made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). Certainly, we have no desire to obstruct the progress of the Bill, but there will doubtless be a good many criticisms made of these clauses, and they may occupy some time, and still we shall endeavour to make reasonable progress. It is not understood that we are going to pass these clauses without careful consideration. We want to make the Government realize, as we do, that we ought to keep control without the Dominion Parliament of the Franchise and of the Election law. Amendments will no doubt be offered with that end in view. The Government may be satisfied that nothing is intended beyond a full discussion.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

Mr. HUGHES. In justice to the leader of the Opposition, I may recall what occurred while the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) was speaking this evening. He rose to suggest that all opposition to these preliminaries should be dropped and that we should make as much progress as possible.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. It is hardly worth while to go on with the discussion. I accept the assurances of the hon. member for Pictou and other gentlemen, that they are not disposed to be factious in their opposition. I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12.05 a.m. (Saturday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 4th April, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

KETTLE RIVER VALLEY RAILWAY.

House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 26) to incorporate the Kettle River Valley Railway Company.—(Mr. Bos-
tock.)

(In the Committee.)

Mr. McINNES. Mr. Chairman, is there a motion before the committee?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Flint). The motion is that the committee rise and report progress.

An hon. MEMBER. That motion was carried.

Mr. McINNES. Then, I will move that the committee rise, and in support of that—

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. At the last meeting there was a motion before the committee that the committee rise and report; but the committee rose at the expiration of the hour for private Bills, so that the motion before the committee was not put, and that is the motion still before the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. My information is correct, that the motion before the committee is that the committee rise and report progress.