

that we may not be thankful for so much. After all, what is proposed is that we shall be treated just as men in Macdonald were treated, we shall be gagged and shall speak no more, or, if allowed to speak, we shall be allowed to speak twenty minutes. My right hon. friend did not know whether he had not been too generous in giving us twenty minutes. He thought we should do better in five minutes than in twenty. I do not know but we should be thankful to him for that much; but we know what we are to expect from these new rules. I had proposed to move this amendment, if the action of my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries had not cut the ground from under my feet:

'That the House do not proceed with the consideration of the resolution, but that it be referred to a special committee to assist Mr. Speaker in the examination of the same, and to report upon it, according to the established and binding rules of this House.'

In 1867, when Parliament was first organized after Confederation, the first thing it had to do was to establish rules for its guidance. How was that done? By resolution moved in the House? No. The rules were prepared by a special committee. After this committee had reported, they were referred to the Committee of the Whole, and again discussed. You will find the record in the Journals of the House of the 20th of December, 1867:

'Resolved that this House will immediately resolve itself into a committee on the report of the Select Committee appointed to assist Mr. Speaker in framing rules and regulations for the Government of this House. The House accordingly resolved itself into the said committee; and a short time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; and Mr. Macdonald (Glengarry) reported that the committee had gone through the rules and regulations, and made amendments thereunto.'

The Proper Procedure in Amending Rules of the House.

This procedure has always been followed afterwards when the rules have been amended. This would have been the proper method to follow; but my right hon. friend to-day had resolved to gag the House and not to allow free discussion in Committee of the Whole or in a special committee. There are many reasons why the rules which we are now discussing should be discussed in the Committee of the Whole. Nobody can contend that they are complete. Indeed it is not possible to pass them as they are, because in some points they do not convey the meaning of those who framed them. That point has been taken up by my hon. friend who sits by my side (Mr. Pugsley). For instance, what is the meaning of this rule:

'Every motion heretofore debatable made upon routine proceedings, except adjournment motions and every motion standing on the order of the proceedings for the day, or for the concurrence in a report of a standing or a special committee, or for the previous question, or for the third reading of a bill, or for the adjournment of the House when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, or for the adoption, in Committee of the Whole, or of Supply, or of Ways and Means of the resolution clause, section, preamble or title under consideration shall be debatable; but all other motions shall be decided without debate or amendment.'