

Hon. Mr. POWER—I am not going to inflict a speech, but I think it is to be regretted that the honourable gentleman from Shell River did not give notice and have this matter come up in the regular way. I have no observations to make on the speech made by the Minister of Militia; but there are just two points which occur to me in relation to the matter, on which a little additional light is necessary which we may get another time. I do not ask for it now because the House is probably anxious to adjourn. One is, that this officer has been in command of the battalion for some six or seven years, I understand.

Hon. Mr. DESJARDINS—Yes.

Hon. Mr. POWER—And up to a few months ago there appeared to be no serious dissatisfaction with him, and there is now no complaint against his conduct as a military man. That is one point which deserves consideration.

Hon. Mr. DESJARDINS—Those complaints were reported to the department a few months ago, but Col. Otter says they had existed for some time.

Hon. Mr. POWER.—Possibly Col. Hamilton has had an opportunity of dealing with the charges made against him, but that does not appear from the correspondence which has been read. There has been no answer read from Col. Hamilton to the general charges against him. There is apparently an answer with respect to one point.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON.—I wish to explain the irregularity. I ought to have given a notice of motion as the hon. senior member for Halifax says, but I told the Minister of Militia that I wished to ask the question if he had no objection to bring it up in that way, as the time was short and the session nearly closed. It was for that reason that I put the question to-night.

The Senate then adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Wednesday, 22nd April, 1896.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to ask the Premier when parliament is likely to be prorogued, and dissolved—whether it is likely to die a natural death, or whether prorogation and dissolution will follow the session. I think it is proper that we should have such information, as the existence of parliament is drawing to a close.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I can inform the hon. gentleman that parliament will be prorogued to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock. We have delayed the prorogation to the latest possible moment, in order to afford the members of the House of Commons, who have had no opportunity within the last four months fully to discuss the questions before them, as much time as the law will possibly give them. The dissolution of parliament will take place the next day, and the writs will be issued; nomination will take place on the 16th June, and polling on the 23rd June; the writs will be returnable on the 13th July, and parliament will meet on the 16th July, perhaps earlier, or a little later.

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A Message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (105) "An Act further to amend the Customs Tariff, 1894."

The bill was read the first time.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL moved the second reading of the bill. He said: It is a very short bill. It is to extend the free entry of machinery imported for mining. It simply repeals item 643, schedule B, of the Customs Tariff of 1894, chapter 33 of the Revised Statutes. The