

**THE SENATE.**

*Ottawa, Friday, February 21, 1902.*

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

**THE STANDING COMMITTEES.****REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SELECTION PRESENTED.**

Hon. Mr. SCOTT, from the Committee on Selection, presented their first report. He said: Is the House prepared to adopt the report to-day, or to have it put on the minutes and considered at a future day?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Not to-day. There has been such a radical change in all the committees that I think it is but fair to the House to have sufficient time to look at this report and study the complexion of the committees. I dare say a number of the gentlemen who have been struck off the committees would like to know the reason why, and if it meets with the approval of the House I would suggest that it stand over till after the adjournment. Nothing can be gained by adopting the report to-day.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think it would be better to take it up on the second day after we meet again, because senators do not always arrive here on the first day. I move that the report be taken into consideration after the approaching recess—on the second day after the meeting of the House.

The motion was agreed to.

**LEASING OF I.C.R. SIDING AT SYDNEY.****INQUIRY.**

Hon. Mr. McDONALD (Cape Breton) inquired of the government:

1. Has the Minister of Railways leased a siding on the Intercolonial Railway at Sydney to any person or corporation?
2. If so, to whom, and at what price, and for what length of time?
3. What is the name of the party?
4. For what purpose is the siding used?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am advised by Mr. Schreiber, the Deputy Minister, that there is no siding on the Intercolonial Railway at Sydney leased to any person or corporation.

**AN ADJOURNMENT.****MOTION.**

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I put a notice on the paper yesterday that when the Senate adjourns to-day it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, the 11th March next. Some hon. gentlemen desired that the adjournment should be extended for another week. It was urged that gentlemen living at a remote distance would not have the opportunity of going home and returning in time, and as it is not likely that any business will be pressing in the interim, the government have no objection if that is the desire of the House. I move that when the House adjourns to-day it do stand adjourned till the 18th March, at 8 p.m.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I understand that that is an adjournment for three weeks?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Does not the hon. gentleman think he is asking too much? It may be that there are several members who have business to transact, but if they have, the business of the country should not stand for their convenience. I understand there are six or seven private Bills ready to be introduced now, besides a number of divorce Bills, which will take a good deal of time, and unless it is expected that the House will sit until the middle of summer, or to furnish a reason to the people of the country for what has been reiterated thousands of times, that we are a useless body except to record what is sent to us from the other House, I think the hon. gentleman is asking too much, that is, if he is consulting the interests of the country and the interests of legislation. We know that in the other House the Bills are gone through very often with a rapidity that characterizes the political branch of parliament, and that the calm and deliberate attention which all measures should receive at the hands of legislators is not given to them in that chamber. In the Senate that does not apply. We are fewer in number and less actuated by the feelings that characterize the other House, for the reason they are subject to the will of the people and we are not. Should we give the country cause to complain of the action of the Senate by remaining away