

confidence at the present time, from certain rumours that have been floating about, and I am afraid that he will hardly find it possible to leave the helm without his strong and firm hand upon it. But, even suppose that he thought he could do so, he ought to have had a little unselfishness in his nature. There are other members of Parliament who are loyal as well as he is, and who would like to get through the duties of this session and go to London with him, if he would allow them to go in the same vessel with His Majesty, my Lord Pax, as my hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) christened him. Other gentlemen would like to go over and pay their devoirs, and assist in this celebration, and so it is of great interest—and it is a plea urged by the Prime Minister, and by those who sit around him, and by his organs of the press—that we ought to hurry on with the business in order to let Canada's Premier and public men get over to London in time for the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. That is another reason why we should hurry through with the business of this House as fast as is compatible with careful analysis and careful legislation.

Mr. CASEY. I rise to a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. FOSTER. I see the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey) has risen, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CASEY. I am waiting for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) to sit down, as he should do.

Mr. FOSTER. Now I am seated.

Mr. CASEY. In pursuance of the suggestion that we should hurry through with the business of the House, I wish to ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker, as to whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is carrying out your decision of a little while ago. I understood you to rule, Sir, that whether he was discussing the second reading, or the amendment for the six months' hoist, or otherwise, the arguments he adduced should be addressed to the principles of this Bill. I understood that you allowed the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) to continue, merely in the hope that he would connect his arguments with the principles of the Bill. I now ask your ruling, as to whether, after ten or fifteen minutes, he has succeeded in doing that. I ask your ruling, Sir, for the reason, that if this sort of discursive speech is permitted now, it would mean an enlarged and irrelevant discussion on every Bill that comes before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member (Mr. Foster) who has the floor, stated that he proposed to conclude his speech with a motion in reference to the postponement of this Bill. I certainly think that the arguments which he has been adducing may be applied as reasons for the postponement of the consideration of the Bill.

Mr. CASEY. I understood your former ruling to be, Sir—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey) wishes to understand.

Mr. CASEY. I am merely asking for an explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER. On the motion before the Chair for the second reading of the Bill, it would limit the discussion to the principles of the Bill; but on an amendment, postponing the Bill for a certain period, either a discussion on the principles of the Bill, or a statement of cogent reasons for that postponement, would be in order.

Mr. FOSTER. Your ruling was very clear to us on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, and I am very glad that the laboured explanation has let a little light into the mind of my hon. friend (Mr. Casey), who seems now to think that there is a little cogency in these arguments. I do not think, however, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey) ought to tax the Speaker inordinately to explain everything to his mind. I was going on to say that there were business reasons and jubilee year reasons, why the business of this House should be just as quickly done as it possibly can be.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). That is what you are doing now.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes. I want to go on to the third point. If my premises are true in this respect, and I think no man will deny them, I come to this conclusion: That if the Government goes upon that line, and is sincerely desirous to do so, the Government is in duty bound to leave off all legislation that is trivial, unnecessary, or, in fact, that is not absolutely and practically necessary, and that it is its bounden duty to put the most important business that the House has this session to come before it, to put that business first upon the docket, and not to interpose between that business and the time of this House, a motion on a subject like the present. Now, I think my argument on this point is clear to my hon. friend.

The Government have brought down a good many topics of legislation, and more they have left out that they might have brought down, if the session had not been so late, and if the session did not promise to be comparatively short. For instance, we would have expected in a usual session to see a Bill introduced by my hon. friend the Postmaster General, if possible, to carry out consistently the views of that hon. gentleman when he was on the Opposition side of the House; and if later experience has made it doubtful in his mind whether he can be consistent on that point, and whether the Government of which he is a member can be consistent, for virtue's sake, the law should be invoked to keep