

committees pretty regularly this session would agree with that statement.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The idea I had of it was this, that by meeting at one o'clock we could do nearly as much work as we accomplish at present.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Let the committees adjourn at twelve o'clock.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. We discussed that, and probably it could be arranged that on Wednesdays the committees should meet at ten o'clock and adjourn at twelve. We would then have the hour from twelve to one for lunch. I think there could be that understanding, that committees on Wednesday would meet from ten to twelve.

Mr. STOCKTON. If we had that understanding, that the committees should meet at ten and adjourn at twelve, I think that would meet the case.

Rule as amended agreed to.

On rule 9,

9. The Speaker shall, within ten days after the opening of each session, lay upon the table of the House a report of the proceedings for the preceding year of the Commissioners of Internal Economy.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This is a new rule.

Select standing committees—special committee to report.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Practically no change here. The rule is made simply to conform with the present practice. At the opening of the House the leader of the House moves that a committee be appointed to name certain committees. These committees are fixed by the new rule.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Hitherto they have been fixed by a motion. It is merely to put into the form of a rule that which has been a matter of invariable practice at the commencement of the session.

On rule 17,

17. When two or more members rise to speak, Mr. Speaker calls upon the member who first rose in his place, but a motion may be made that any member who has risen 'be now heard,' or 'do now speak,' which motion shall forthwith be put without debate.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This is the old rule 11 amended, providing that the motion shall be forthwith put without debate. That is all the change.

On rule 18,

18. A member addressing the House shall, if called to order by the Speaker or by any other member sit down while the point of order is being stated, after which he may explain. The Speaker shall thereupon decide the point of order, which decision shall be subject to appeal to the House, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the chair shall

be final. (The Speaker may permit debate of the point of order before rendering his decision, but such debate must be strictly relevant to the point of order taken.)

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This has very obviously been the practice, but it is put in the shape of a rule.

Mr. SPROULE. The old rule was more observed in the breach than in the observance. As a general thing, our Speaker rules at once without the point of order being debated at all. I always understood that it was quite proper for any member to debate the point of order as long as he confined himself to the subject of the point of order and that should properly be done before the Speaker gave his ruling. I have always thought as well that it would be quite proper for a member who is called to order on such a point to give his explanation before the Speaker gave his ruling, because otherwise the Speaker is not in possession of what is in the member's mind until the ruling is made and then it is too late to reverse or change the ruling. Then, all that can be done is to appeal to the House, which the member does not desire to do and which a reasonable explanation before would have made unnecessary by preventing the Speaker from giving the ruling.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The new rule applies exactly as suggested by my hon. friend.

A member addressing this House shall, if called to order by the Speaker or by any other member, sit down (while the point of order is being stated) after which he may explain.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The rule is in accord exactly with the views of my hon. friend. It provides that if a point of order is taken the member must sit down and after the point of order is stated he may explain.

Mr. SPROULE. That, I think, is a proper rule.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes, and that is the practice but not the rule. We have thought it better to put it in the rules of the House which may be understood by everybody.

Mr. BARKER. I suggest that the last sentence be placed after the first sentence so that it will be clear that the Speaker shall not give his decision before he calls for the debate if a debate is necessary. Otherwise he would give his decision before he heard the debate.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think the last sentence should come after the first one.

Mr. BARKER. I do not think there should be the word 'thereupon.'