

Hon. Mr. POWER—If I may be allowed to remark, I cannot furnish the hon. gentleman with understanding.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—The understanding that the hon. gentleman has is one that he ought not to possess. He should tell us the motives that prompted the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to bring these two departments into one again. It should be sufficient to my hon. friend that it is considered wise, and in the public interest, and less expensive to amalgamate the two branches. If the hon. gentleman would exercise his brains a little more in studying out the working of the Department it would be better than fishing to find out something as to the relations that exist between the officers of that Department.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Halifax will be well understood by every hon gentleman in this House. It is quite apparent to anyone who looks at this question that the statement of facts made by the hon. gentleman from Halifax is confirmed by the legislation. I have in my hands the Act which was passed for the express purpose of appointing two deputy heads when the Department was divided, and it was well known at the time, and was a matter of public notoriety, the reasons for it, and the reasons for uniting these branches again have been discussed in the press, and I think every gentleman in this Chamber perfectly understands the whole question without our going into the personal features of it.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—Newspaper gossip.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT—I think my hon. friend should change his phrase. He says "every hon. gentleman perfectly understands." I think my hon. friend had better say that some hon. gentlemen imagine these reasons for the change in the Department. I must confess I am one of those gentlemen that do not understand the cause of the change in the Department. If any hon. gentleman wishes to investigate the cause of the change, no one better than the gentleman opposite knows how it can be brought about; but I can assure him and all hon. gentlemen that the change in the constitution of this Department was determined upon before any question arose as to the performance of his duties or the conduct of the late Deputy Minister.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (A) "An Act to amend the Act respecting the Department of the Geological Survey."

Hon. Mr. TASSE, from the committee, reported the Bill without amendment.

The report was adopted, and the Bill was then read the third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I wish to say that the remarkable speed with which this Bill has gone through its final stage should not establish a precedent. I think the Bill should not have been read the third time immediately after being reported from committee.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT—Since I have been in the House I have never heard an objection raised to a Bill being read the third time after being reported without amendment, when no objection was raised to it.

THE WRIGHT DIVORCE BILL.

REPORT REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE.

The Order of the Day having been read for consideration of the second report of the Select Committee on divorce *in re* the petition of James Wright,

Hon. Mr. GOWAN said: When my hon. friend from Halifax yesterday referred to the Cox Divorce Bill I had an imperfect recollection of it, but I had sufficient knowledge of it to convince me that it was disposed of upon more substantial grounds than those on which he thought it was, and since then, on looking into the case, I find that it is very distinguishable from that now before us. The matter of advertisement was not the main point to which objection was taken; it was only an incidental point. The service of the notice was radically defective in many particulars, as will be seen when I read a portion of what Sir Alexander Campbell, the leader of the Government, said:

"I think in a case of this kind where the notice is not complete or satisfactory, and where the identification is not thorough, we should exercise extreme care. I have read these papers again, because I was anxious to facilitate my hon. friend in the matter if I