

made up to the last day of March, are they to be published only to that date before the next meeting of Parliament?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is as far as they can be.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—That would be ten months before Parliament meets, and then they would cease to have a large portion of their interest to the country. Unless there is some great departmental necessity, it seems to me a pity to postpone them so long. It would not signify at what period they were made up, as long as they could be brought down to as near the meeting of Parliament as possible.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said Parliament could be called earlier,

Hon. Mr. DICKEY said, if the country alongside of us could get their public accounts ready in two months before they were required, he could see no reason why it should not be done here. The first of July was chosen as the commencement of our financial year, in consequence of its agreeing with the commencement of our national existence, so that there was a uniformity in starting from the 1st day of July in everything as well as in the Public Accounts. He would prefer, if any change was to be made, to see it advanced three months rather than put back, which would give five months to prepare the accounts before meeting Parliament, the same period as allowed in the United States.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH said he could not see why three months should not be sufficient to make up the public accounts.

A vote was then taken on the motion for a three months' hoist, which was carried on the following division:—

CONTENTS—The Honorable Messieurs Atkins, Alexander, Archibald, Armand, Bellerose, Botsford, Bourinot, Campbell, Carrall, Chinic, Dickey, Dickson, Dumouchel, Ferguson, Ferrier, Flint, Girard, Haviland, Kaulbach, Macpherson, Miller, Montgomery, Muirhead, Read, Ryan, Shaw, Simpson, Skead, Trudel, Vidal, Wilmot—31.

NON-CONTENTS.—The Honorable Messieurs Brown, Bureau, Chaffers, Christie (Speaker) Cormier, Faore, Haythorne, Hope, Leonard, Paquet, Pelletier, Penny, Reesor, Scott, Sutherland, Wark—16.

At 6 o'clock the House adjourned till 8 p.m.

EVENING SITTING.

The SPEAKER took the chair at eight o'clock.

After routine.

POSTAL IRREGULARITIES.

Hon. Mr. BOURINOT called attention to the fact that copies of books he had mailed

from the Senate postoffice had not reached their destination. As this had happened to others as well as himself, he trusted the Government would take steps to prevent such irregularities in the future.

Hon. Mr. MILLER was glad this subject had been brought under the notice of the House. He thought it was an evil of much greater magnitude than many were inclined to suppose. By a vote of this House it was provided that three copies of the debates should be furnished to each senator, and one to each member of the House of Commons. He understood that several members of the other Chamber had not received their copies, although they had been mailed regularly from the office here. There was something very seriously wrong, and if it continued to occur there must be an investigation.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said when his attention had been called to it by Mr. Bourinot last year, he asked the Postoffice Department to make a searching investigation. His suggestion was that hereafter when documents were sent to parts of the country where these irregularities occurred, they should be registered. He would again call the attention of the Postmaster General to the subject and request him to investigate it.

The matter then dropped.

THE INDEMNITY BILL.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of bill to amend the act further to secure the Independence of Parliament. He said the House was no doubt aware of the circumstances attending the introduction of the measure. The Independence of Parliament Act in this country was extremely stringent, and it had been found that a number of gentlemen in the other branch of the legislature had come within its purview. Two of them had already vacated their seats, and he understood writs had been taken out against some twenty or twenty-five. There could be no doubt, from the facts that had been developed in the debate in the other Chamber, several of those gentlemen whose seats were in jeopardy had inadvertently violated the act. It was not a subject which honorable gentlemen in this Chamber would, perhaps, desire to discuss in that detail that ordinary measures would admit of at their hands. There was no doubt, a considerable degree of delicacy connected with it, as it affected solely members of the other House. It was not proposed to relieve them further than the penalties incurred to the end of this session. If their seats were forfeited, they must take measures between now and next session to enable them to appear in their