

appointed to consider the orders and customs of the House and the privileges of parliament, committee to meet—

The motion was agreed to.

#### THE PRYOR DIVORCE BILL.

##### MOTION.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—Owing to the fact that the hon. senator from Wolseley (Hon. Mr. Perley) was not present when this Bill was brought up, it was not proceeded with. I now move that Bill (B) An Act for the relief of Arthur James Pryor, be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading to-day and that it be now read the third time.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Why should it be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading now? Pryor has been separated from his wife six or eight years, and why should we be in such a great hurry?

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I raise a point of order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—His wife has been living with another man.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—How do you know?

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—We have the evidence of it.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—There has been no notice of this motion.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—It is a mere matter of routine. However, I will move that the Bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading to-morrow.

The motion was agreed to.

#### THE ACTING MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

##### INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I wish to ask the leader of the government who is the acting Minister of the Interior?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think the premier has been acting up to the present time.

##### SECOND READING.

Bill (48) An Act respecting the Toronto and Hamilton Railway Company.—(Hon. Mr. eKrr, Toronto.)

#### CONTRACTS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKS BILL.

##### THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (51) An Act respecting Contracts for Government Works.

(In the Committee).

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The object of this Bill is to provide that in all cases, even where the amount to be expended by a department on any public work is less than \$5,000, if the minister calls for tenders he must come to council with the tenders, and the contract must be awarded under an Order in Council.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Is the work which is being done on the post office here now done by contract or day's work?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think it is being done by day's work.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I should think it is day's work from the length of time it is taking to do the work. It has extended over a year now. The progress is very slow for the number of men employed. When the western block was being rebuilt after its destruction by fire the work was done by day's work, and a great deal of time was wasted. It took three or four months to do what could easily have been done in a week. I am very glad that this Bill has been brought in, because it will stop that sort of fraud upon the public.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think the work upon the post office has not been going on steadily this winter, except to a limited degree.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend is entirely deceiving himself if he thinks that this Bill will remove the difficulties he points out. The widest possible scope is given, by the first clause, to the minister at the head of the department in calling for tenders. He need not invite tenders in cases of pressing emergency, in which delay would be injurious to the public interest, or in cases in which from the nature of the work it can be more expeditiously or economically executed by the officers and servants of the department, or in cases where the estimated cost of the work is less than \$5,000. All this is left to his discretion. I would