

Bill read a second time.

Mr. BURT expressed a hope that the hon. and learned gentleman in charge of the Bill would fix a late date for going into Committee upon it. If this was the only crop of errors which the Revision Commission had been able to discover, he thought very little research would have enabled them to have found a much larger crop; and he thought, while they were about it, they might as well do the work thoroughly. There were many other errors which suggested themselves to his mind, and he thought they might as well be rectified.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said any suggestion emanating from the hon. and learned member who had just spoken would be thankfully accepted by him, as the representative of the Revision Committee in that House. The crop of errors presented with the Bill now before the House did not represent errors in the Statutes themselves, but merely clerical errors, the rectification of which was rendered necessary in order to make the Statutes read grammatically. He would move that the Bill be considered in Committee that day week (August 7).

This was agreed to.

WIDTH OF TIRES BILL.—POOR HOUSES DISCIPLINE BILL.

The Orders of the Day for the second reading of these Bills were postponed.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL explained that it was at his request that the hon. member Mr. Randell had moved the adjournment of the debate on the Address in Reply. Some remarks made by the hon. member for the Murray and Williams with reference to the Kimberley District had, in vulgar parlance, "fetched" the hon. member for the North. The hon. baronet himself, being an officer of the House, when asked to do so objected to take advantage of the forms of the House to enable the hon. member to reply to what had been said with regard to the Kimberley District, and moreover was afraid that upon the motion for adjournment the whole debate, as very often occurred, might be reopened. So

he thought he would exercise a little diplomacy, and, not having spoken himself, would arrange to reply for the hon. member for the North, moving the adjournment of the debate until Monday for that purpose. But, having to leave the House, he asked Mr. Randell to act for him in the matter. He understood that the Government considered this action obstructive. But just the contrary was the case—the desire being to avoid the use of the forms of the House to reopen a debate which already appeared to have become rather wearisome to the Government. Having said so much in explanation, he would merely add, with reference to His Excellency's Speech, that he thought the Government on this occasion had given as good an account of their stewardship as any Administration he recollected since he had been a member of that House had done. They had shown themselves not only anxious to meet the wishes of the House, but, as regards a great many questions, had anticipated those wishes.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) said he rose merely to thank the hon. member for Plantagenet for the kindly terms in which he had addressed the House, in regard to the Government, and for the explanation he had offered with reference to the motion for adjournment. As regards the Government, he was free to confess that he for one had felt a certain amount of annoyance,—perhaps not annoyance, but pain—to think that the valuable time of the House was to be wasted by a mere motion for adjournment, when no apparent object was to be gained thereby. But had they in the least understood the object for which the adjournment was moved, or been aware that any hon. member opposite was desirous of expressing his views, no objection whatever would have been offered by the Government to the course adopted. But the position seemed to be this: there did not appear to be a single member of the House who wished to say another word with regard to the Address in Reply,—which, so far as he could see, had met with cordial approval from all parts of the House. It had not met with a single word of adverse criticism, except perhaps one, which was merely of a jocular character, from the hon. member for

Perth. Otherwise, the Speech had been highly approved all round, and when he heard the hon. member Mr. Randell move the adjournment of the debate, for no apparent purpose whatever, he could not but suppose that there was some deep-laid scheme behind, and that some mine would on Monday be unexpectedly sprung upon them, to their utter discomfiture, if not complete destruction. Consequently he had felt very uneasy about it; but, now, after the hon. member for Plantagenet had so courteously explained the object of the adjournment, he was sorry that any opposition had been offered to it from that bench.

MR. RANDELL thought, when he moved the adjournment the other evening, it would have been understood, from his past action in the House, that at any rate he had no factious motive in doing so, or any desire to obstruct the progress of business. The hon. member for Plantagenet had already explained how it was that he (Mr. Randell) had come to move the adjournment. He had not quite understood at the time what the object in view was, in adopting that course, but he thought possibly some hon. members who had not yet addressed the House were desirous of doing so. It had not been his own intention to do so, for he thought His Excellency's Speech had been criticised from every possible point of view,—from the recommendation to remit the duty on immigrants' tools to the vexed question of who should have the honor of having initiated the proposed loan for public works. The Speech appeared to have met with the entire concurrence of the House, and to have given satisfaction not only to hon. members generally, but to the whole country, for it revealed a state of affairs which was encouraging and satisfactory in the extreme. He was sorry, therefore, that his action should have been misunderstood, or given umbrage in any quarter. Indeed he could scarcely understand why it should possibly have given umbrage, for, since he had been a member of that House, whether occupying the position which he now had the honor of occupying, or sitting as an elective representative, he thought his fellow-members would bear him out that his course of action had always been an independent

one; and, he might add, he intended to maintain that position, so long as he had the honor of a seat in the House. He should consider himself unworthy of a seat in it, if he did not pursue that course of conduct in all his public actions. He might add with reference to his action in moving the adjournment of the debate, that it was from a spirit of fair play, to a very great extent, that he had done so, and that he had been induced to fall in so readily with the wish of the hon. member for Plantagenet, and seeing that there was no absolute necessity to hurry the adoption of the Address in Reply,—which was usually presented to His Excellency on the only day in the week on which the House sat in the morning (Thursday). Consequently he saw no objection whatever to the course which had been adopted, especially as he understood there were other hon. members who were desirous of addressing the House, and who would have done so under a disadvantage at that late hour, when the House was already wearied by a very lengthy discussion. While on this subject he might add that he had been very sorry to observe on the occasion referred to, as on many other occasions, that many hon. members, having themselves addressed the House at very great length, immediately disappeared from the Council Chamber, thereby exercising a somewhat depressing influence upon those who had to speak afterwards, to an array of empty benches. He regretted to see that practice resorted to, and he availed himself of this opportunity of referring to it.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said he now understood that the object of the adjournment of the debate had been done away with, as the hon. member for the North preferred taking another opportunity of replying to the hon. member for the Williams.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) then moved, That a Select Committee be appointed to draw up an Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech; such Committee to consist of Mr. Steere, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Grant, Mr. Venn, Mr. Hamersley, and the Mover.

Motion agreed to.

The Committee then withdrew to prepare the Address, and, after a short absence,