

legislation pass only such laws as will promote the public good, and thus redound to our credit.

Rules of order properly framed, and properly observed, tend to assist not to impede business, and in a body where legislation is impartially conducted, there the rules are most strictly observed. Where efforts are made to take up business out of its regular course, by suspensions of rules and other devices known to those familiar with parliamentary law, there is always much time wasted, and the modest and retiring member will frequently find those bills, in which he feels a deep interest, kept in the back ground, and probably at the end of the session referred to some future General Assembly, when, by a strict adherence to the rules of order, he might, at an early stage of the session, have had the measure acted upon. So great had this evil become, that those who framed the Constitution under which we are called together, to remedy the complaint, have engrafted a provision therein that no reading of a bill shall take place, more than once in any one day, unless two-thirds of the members elected shall so decide by yeas and nays—(Art. 3, sec. 27.) The members will, therefore, perceive the time that must necessarily be consumed, in taking up a bill out of its regular course, the formality and vote required being even greater than is required on the passage of the bill; and therefore I throw out the suggestion, at this early stage of our proceedings, that all things be done decently and in order. I would not have the members suppose that emergencies will not arise, in which bills should be passed at once, but on those occasions, which will probably not occur with frequency, the requisite number of fifty-eight votes may be obtained for the purpose.

Many subjects which have engrossed the greatest share of the attention of legislative bodies have, by our Constitution, been almost entirely withdrawn from our action, and we are directed at this session to pass general laws, which will be submitted to us, upon the subject of corporations, after which time we are precluded, under the penalty of the act being declared void, from passing any special act of incorporation, the subject matter of which is embraced in a general law. The time and labor thus saved to our body will be a great gain, as nearly one-fourth of the laws heretofore passed, for the last quarter of a century, have been charters of an ephemeral character, a large portion of which have never been heard of after their passage. The time spent upon this subject can now be more profitably employed.

In conclusion, gentlemen, although I gratefully appreciate the compliment paid me, I would be still more gratified if at the end of the session I could return to my constituents and point to a reduction of the expenses of government, a flourishing treasury, and reduced taxation, as the result of our labors this winter.