

"At all events, be that as it may, I feel that it would be dishonourable for myself to attempt to do business at an adjournment of the House, at which my colleagues had been told that no business would be done, and that they need not attend, and therefore I must decline to do so; and I protest at any attempt to do business, and I require the Government to fulfil the pledge made to me and to every Member of the House, that Parliament would be at once prorogued.

"While I do this, I do not wish to interfere in any way with the right of the Government to call Parliament together whenever they think the exigencies of the country require it; they must be the judges of that, and be responsible for it; but let that be done in the usual way, that all may understand that it is their duty to attend; and when I, together with all my colleagues, am so called upon, I trust that I shall be found in my place, and I shall then feel that whether or not all my colleagues attend, they will not have been kept away by a pledge that they would not be required, and I could therefore honourably join in doing anything that the House might consider for the interests of the country.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"A. L. PALMER,

"Member for the City and County of St. John."

As far as my opinion is concerned, I am quite clear that it was the desire and expectation of Parliament that prorogation should take place at the time mentioned. Every member must have known that Sir John's announcement on the subject was an intimation of the pleasure of the Crown through its official organ in the House, and that the Prime Minister could only have made it after receiving my authority to do so. Formerly, the intentions of the Sovereign on this subject were conveyed to either Chamber by a written message, but though a verbal communication through the First Minister has been now substituted, it does not render this latter mode of communication less formal or official. Had therefore the House of Commons desired to prolong the Session beyond the 13th of August, its proper course would have been to have communicated its wishes to me by an Address. Though the fact that no motion to this effect was even suggested, is sufficiently conclusive, there are other circumstances which indicate more or less distinctly the feeling of the House. The motion originally appointing the Committee, and carried on the 8th of April, ordered it to sit, "if need were, after prorogation," and more than one member of the Opposition urged the propriety of a Bill being introduced to enable it to do so. Clearly, therefore, when this motion was carried and these suggestions made, the majority who passed the one and the individuals who proposed the other must have contemplated the probability of the Report of the Committee being considered, not in the present but in a subsequent Session of Parliament. Indeed, the mere fact of prorogation being fixed for the 13th of August implies this much, for it is not to be presumed that the House would have proceeded to consider the Report, until both it and the evidence upon which it was founded had been printed and distributed to Members,—but to enable this to be done an interval of a few days, after Parliament had reassembled and had received the Report, would manifestly have been required before action could have been taken upon it. If, therefore, Parliament had contemplated considering the Report during the current Session it would have desired a later day to be fixed for prorogation than that on which the mere manuscript copy of the Report was to be laid on its table.

Again, when Mr. *Dorion* moved in amendment of the motion for the Committee's adjournment to the 2nd July, that "inasmuch as the Committee will have no power either to enforce the attendance of witnesses or to compel them to give testimony without the action of this House, it is essential to the proper conduct of the investigation that it should be prosecuted under circumstances that will admit of the prompt exercise of the authority of the House, it is therefore necessary that the House should sit on the day to which the Committee has leave to adjourn," the House decided