

by fire of the Intercolonial Railway sheds at Richmond, near Halifax; and to ask the Government what report they have had from the officers of the department in relation to the matter. I hope that prompt measures will be taken to provide the necessary facilities at Halifax, so that no interruption of trade may take place.

Mr. HAGGART. In reply to the hon. gentleman, I have to say that I got word to-day of the loss by fire of the Intercolonial shop and railway buildings at Richmond, on yesterday, 19th May. There were destroyed a large warehouse, a sugar warehouse, a large cattle shed, a large wharf, an elevated pole trestle, 11 box cars, one refrigerator car, three platform cars, and other property. I have not yet come to any decision what steps to take, but immediate steps will be taken for the purpose of carrying on traffic as usual.

Mr. LANGEIER. Any insurance?

Mr. HAGGART. There is no insurance on any of the Government property along the Intercolonial Railway.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY—ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. LAURIER. I would call the attention of the leader of the House to the fact that Thursday and Friday next are holidays, and I desire to know whether it is the intention that the House shall resume again on Monday next?

Mr. FOSTER. That is a matter about which we might have a little conversation. Last week the leader of the Opposition will remember that I had a short conversation with him as to what time we might fairly expect to come to a vote upon the amendment of the hon. member for South Oxford. My understanding with him at the time, after a little casual conversation, was that it would be possible to come to a vote on Tuesday of this week. So far as I am concerned, I have been working with that end in view, and I have gone so far as to intimate that I thought a vote would be had on Tuesday evening. Hearing that the same definiteness did not exist on the other side, I yesterday addressed a note to my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition; and in reply he stated that the understanding was not at all definite with him, and he found some difficulty in promising that the vote should be taken on that evening. I would like to ask him now whether he thinks it will be possible for us to take a vote before we separate? It is immaterial to me whether it is Tuesday or Wednesday; but if we separate on Wednesday, it would be of great moment, I think, for the despatch of business in this House, if we could come to a vote upon the question we have been debating for 10 or 12 days now, before we separate for the holidays that are to come; and for my own part I should be willing to sit up late in order to do that. We have

been adjourning at a very reasonable hour, under the impression that business would be forwarded just as much; but whether it is or not, I think we are all prepared to sit a little late to-night and to-morrow night, and, if necessary, to have a session Wednesday morning, so that we might get a vote, if possible, before we adjourn. I would like my hon. friend's view on that.

Mr. LAURIER. I have a distinct recollection of the conversation which I had with my hon. friend not more than eight days ago with regard to this debate, and I told him at the time that perhaps we might expect a division to-morrow. I must say, however, that my expectations have not been verified at all. I look upon it as absolutely impossible to have a division to-morrow, and very improbable to have it on Wednesday. It may be, however; we do not know. But I must say to the hon. gentleman that he is not at all correct in stating that the House has sat until reasonable hours. I do not object that the House should sit later this week, and that we should also sit until a reasonable hour in the morning, or till about midnight. As to a sitting on Wednesday morning, I do not think we could agree to that at all. It is impossible for me to say whether we would be in a position to come to a division before the adjournment; that will depend altogether upon the course which the debate takes to-day and to-morrow and the day after. There is no disposition on this side of the House to protract the debate any longer than is absolutely necessary to allow every member who desires to do so, to speak upon this most important question. I can say no more than that, and can make no binding promise. I may say that it is not my intention, nor the intention of my hon. friends, to put any obstacle in the way of coming to a division. But the hon. gentleman has not answered the question I put, as to whether he intends to resume on Monday.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not know that I could ask the hon. gentleman to go any further than he has gone in relation to the course of the debate, but I take his answer to mean this, that if possible we should come to a vote before we separate, and I think the House will be quite willing to sit later than usual to-night and to-morrow night, in order to bring about a vote if possible. In reference to the other question, as we shall adjourn on Wednesday, it is for the members of the House to say whether they would rather come back on Monday or on Tuesday. Monday is private members' day, and it is for the members of the House to say whether they desire to sit on the following Monday or not. We could return after the recess and sit on Monday night at eight o'clock, or on Tuesday at three o'clock; I will not be prepared to go any later than Tuesday at three. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition might express

Mr. STAIRS