

tinued to sit on Dominion Day I think it would be a most unfortunate thing.

Mr. MARA. Notwithstanding what the hon. member for Toronto has said, I certainly was under the impression that an agreement was entered into by both sides of the House that the House on meeting to-day should sit every day during the week, including Saturday. Now, I will not yield in my loyalty, either to the Dominion or the Empire, to any man in this House, but I do not think I would sacrifice either by sitting to-morrow. Let us bear in mind that this is an exceptional session. Circumstances over which we have no control have lengthened it, and the least hon. members living in the vicinity of Ottawa should do is to see that we should sit every day, and not take holidays simply because they are thereby afforded an opportunity of going to their homes. We ought to bear in mind that this is not a matter of sentiment. It is not, so far as British Columbia is concerned or the Maritime Provinces. The members from these provinces cannot go home. We had this session to leave our homes in the middle of April, and, in all probability, we will have to remain here until the middle of August. The time has arrived when the House should take some method of dealing with holidays, and not have so many statutory holidays. If a holiday comes on Tuesday there is no session on Monday, simply because members cannot go home and return, and thus two days are lost for nearly every holiday. There is also too much time wasted in this House. We had the whole of this afternoon taken up by an hon. gentleman in dealing with statements he had made in this House six sessions ago. I do not think that our time should be wasted in this way, and I am of opinion that we ought to sit, not only to-morrow, but every Saturday until the House rises.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. McNEILL. Mr. Speaker, I desire to say a word in explanation of the vote I gave the other night on the amendment of the Finance Minister to the motion of Mr. Jamieson. I find that it has been assumed that in supporting the amendment I voted against a reference to the people. That is a strange misconception, for I had not only voted but spoken in favour of a reference to the people that evening. I am still, as I have always been, in favour of referring this question to the people, and although I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet I venture to say that this question will eventually be disposed of in that way. It is, however, I think, quite right that before the question is submitted to a popular vote the electors should be placed in possession (to the fullest extent possible) of information calculated to assist them in arriving at a sound conclusion on the subject. I cannot doubt that the investigations of the commission that is to be appointed will result in placing before the public a body of most important facts, which will be of great service in enabling men to make up their minds as to the merits of the question. And I would, therefore, have supported the amendment of my hon. friend the Minister of Finance unhesitatingly, but for one consideration, and this was that I had promised my temperance friends to support a resolution for immediate reference to the people. This pledge I felt I must keep.

Mr. McNEILL.

even though on reflection I was convinced that the wisest course would be to have the report of the commission published for the information of the people before the vote was taken. I could vote for a reference to the people and also for the commission. But I could not vote for the commission and the immediate reference consistently. But when Mr. Jamieson, as the mouthpiece of the temperance party, rose in his place and told us emphatically that he was instructed by the Dominion Alliance to say that they were opposed to a reference to the popular vote I felt that I was thereby formally absolved from any pledge as to reference I had given; that my statement as to immediate reference was no longer binding and that I was quite free to follow my own inclination and vote for the commission. But I hold my own views as to the advisability of a reference to the people as strongly as ever I did, and will always be prepared to support such a policy.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am afraid the hon. gentleman is rather transgressing the rule. This is a question of personal explanation, which should be made on the Orders of the Day being called, and can hardly be made on a motion to go into Committee.

Mr. McNEILL. I bow to your decision.

Mr. WATSON. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has paid very close attention to the debates to-night, and, no doubt, will act on some of the suggestions that have been made. I wish to call his attention to a regulation made recently, based on the report of Mr. Wilmot, who was sent to Lake Winnipeg to investigate and report as to the state of the fisheries in this lake. The department have seen fit to restrict companies licenses for commercial purposes to fishing within certain waters. I find that commercial licenses are granted to fishing companies for the purpose of exporting fish, and then there are domestic licenses granted the Indian and settlers to fish for domestic purposes. I claim that the people who catch fish under the domestic licenses should be allowed to export the fish, as well as the large companies. Last year the Indians and half-breeds and some of the settlers caught fish which they sold for export, about half white-fish and the balance pike and pickerel, and the sales amounted to some \$25,000. These fish were caught in the winter time after the ice was formed; but, under the new regulations, it is proposed not to grant any except to companies who are able to invest large sums in building ice-houses to preserve the fish and to fish in deep waters. I hope the hon. Minister will see fit to allow the people who catch fish under these domestic licenses the same privileges with regard to export for all the fish they can catch under the ice as foreign companies.

Motion agreed to; and House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Auditor General's office—Additional amount to cover outlay for clerical assistance (Governor General's warrant)\$1,000

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. In connection with this, probably the Minister of Justice would now be in a position to state what conclusion the Government have arrived at as to the matter to