

The SPEAKER—The hon. gentleman has a right to reply.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I had hoped that the hon. gentleman would not insist upon a division taking place on the question at this late date of the session, a large number of members having left for home.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I am quite aware of that.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I hoped that the hon. gentleman would not have insisted on proceeding further with the motion during the present session. The subject was fully discussed and speeches were made by several members of the House.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman will see that I was not particularly anxious to make a speech at the beginning. I felt that it was desirable, in the interest of this House as well as of the country, that the Senate should express an opinion on the proposition embodied in the resolution. If you simply say the debate petered out and was dropped, that does not count for much.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton)—I would suggest to the hon. gentleman from Halifax that he drop the matter with the understanding that he move it again next session.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Oh, no. Each session is independent of the other.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—And people are starving in the meantime.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton)—It is too warm to discuss this question now. I would like to discuss it, but not on a day like this, and if the hon. gentlemen would let the matter drop, and bring it up at the beginning of next session hon. gentlemen could prepare themselves for it and we could have a very full and instructive debate.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Hon. gentlemen—

Hon. Mr. POWER.—I was going to say that under the circumstances there is no object in discussing the matter any further now.

The SPEAKER—The floor is being occupied by the hon. gentleman from Victoria division.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I find it exceeding strange that responsible legislators are content with an academic discussion of the most live question in politics, and a question which interests most of the people

of Canada. Are we to go before the country as a simple debating society, a mock parliament? I hear hon. senators say, 'Oh, the question has been fully discussed and dropped—withdrawn!' What does that mean? Does it mean that we may discuss the question, but we are incompetent to place ourselves on record with regard to it? I heard the hon. gentleman from De Lorimier make a great speech on a question, denounce the policy of the Government, support the views of the hon. gentleman from Halifax, and wind up his remarks by saying, 'Oh, well, it is only academic; the Senate cannot deal with the tariff.' Well, that kind of statement does not go to build up the reputation of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—We differ on that point.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Certainly we differ.

The SPEAKER—I would ask the hon. member if he has not already spoken on the subject?

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I am speaking on the motion to discharge the order.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I have not made a motion to discharge.

The SPEAKER—There is no motion to discharge. If the hon. member has already spoken—

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—No, I have not spoken. It is a very strange position for a legislature responsible to the people of the country, and responsible to the respective parties to which they belong, to take that it can do nothing more than engage in a futile and empty discussion. That is not a proper attitude for any responsible legislative body to take, especially in regard to a question of such vital importance to the country. If there is one question which divides the two great parties that on the one hand control and on the other criticise the destinies of this country, it is this very question embodied in the motion of the hon. member from Halifax. It is the great line of cleavage between the two parties; and the two parties are represented in this House say what you will. I hear some hon. gentleman say that we are a non-partisan body. That declaration has been made so often that it has become tiresome. This Senate is as partisan as the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—Worse on the other side of the House.