

Reports received so far by the Immigration Department indicate that the two groups are making satisfactory progress, but Mr. Crerar suggests that if the honourable senator has any direct information to the contrary in respect to the St. Walburg settlement, he might, before leaving Ottawa, see Mr. Blair, the Superintendent of Immigration. Mr. Blair will be happy to act on any such information and later communicate with the honourable senator.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed at 3 p.m.

WAR MEASURES ACT
PROCLAMATIONS AND ORDERS IN
COUNCIL TABLED

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, I desire to lay on the Table two copies in French and two in English, of Proclamations and Orders in Council passed between January 1, 1940, and June 30, 1940, under the authority of the War Measures Act. This is the printed volume to which I referred yesterday when copies of the Orders in Council were laid on the Table.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, we have nothing on the Order Paper, and are waiting for legislation to come to us from the House of Commons. I have been following the debate in that House and am informed that the Wheat Bill—I may as well name the Bill, because everybody knows it is being discussed there—may be sent to us about four o'clock. I have thought, therefore, that we should suspend our sitting until after five o'clock, and then if the Bill has reached us we might give it first reading and place the second reading of it on the Orders of the Day for Monday.

Opinion is divided as to whether we shall be able to prorogue or adjourn on Monday evening or on Tuesday. As I must prefer the most prudent course, I would ask that the Senate suspend its sitting till a quarter past five this afternoon. Then I should be in a better position to state what is the situation in the other House. In the meantime, we may turn over in our minds the question whether our adjournment shall be until Monday noon, Monday afternoon or Monday evening.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Or Tuesday.
Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I stressed the idea, and tried to obtain support for it, that the House of Commons might spend the whole of Monday on supply or the estimates, for then, if the Wheat Bill had come here, there would be a fair chance that both houses would finish by Monday evening if they sat from Monday at noon and in the afternoon and evening. I am facing a difficulty such as confronted my right honourable friend when he was in the place I occupy here. Just now I should like to be allowed a couple of hours' delay in reaching a conclusion, and I move that the Senate adjourn during pleasure, to be called back at, say, a quarter past five.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, as it is possible that an important measure may be sent over to the Senate later this afternoon, it is of course quite right that we should meet again then. The estimates are still before the other House, a very long list of them, and I should think it very unlikely that that business would be concluded before late on Monday. In such event, there would not be much advantage in our adjourning this afternoon until earlier than Tuesday. However, at this stage of the session, we should place ourselves almost unreservedly in the hands of the leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand). If it is thought best that we should meet on Monday, I shall be here.

I again urge, as I did a year ago, that we ought to revert to the rule requiring attendance of senators at the latter part of a session in particular. While it is always a duty for honourable members to be present when the Senate is sitting, that duty becomes more important as we approach the final stages of our work. The effect of a slim attendance towards the end is not good, and I hope that next year the honourable leader will move to bring back, either in its original form or modified, the rule which imposed penalties upon honourable senators not present in the closing days of a session.

Just now this House is under attack on two grounds. One is that we defeat Government measures. That is an old form of attack, which occurs as regularly as the sessions and will continue as long as partisanship lives. The other ground is a new one, namely, that we do not defeat Government measures. That is considered a capital offence, justifying capital punishment for this House. Perhaps if one member of Parliament were more sympathetic than any other towards that criticism, it would be myself. I think there is some reason for it. Nevertheless the general situa-