

every civil servant connected with the public service will have his holiday. I think that we, the House of Commons of Canada, should also keep Dominion Day as a holiday. The senior branch of the legislature has in this respect shown us a very good example by adjourning over Dominion Day. With all deference to hon. gentlemen opposite, and though quite as anxious as any hon. gentleman who sits on that side of the House to get through the business, at the same time I think we should recognize and observe our great national holiday, and not sit to-morrow.

Mr. WALLACE. I think the statement made by the hon. Minister of Public Works has been misunderstood. In the report of June 24 it is stated :

"Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The Government have considered the fact that there are two holidays next week, and we believe that if we took Saturday of next week, thus having Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, then the two holidays would not deprive Parliament of more than one day's work. Therefore, when the House adjourns on Friday we shall ask the House to adjourn until Tuesday at three o'clock, and then sit during the remainder of the week, except on Wednesday, which is Dominion Day."

I think it is quite clear from this that the intention stated by the hon. Minister was that we should have to-morrow as a public holiday. But in view of the announcement made by the hon. member for Bothwell that we are going to sit here during the whole of July and the greater part of August, I think we can afford to take a holiday now and then, and I believe it will be satisfactory to this House and the country that we should observe to-morrow as a public holiday.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman who has just spoken professes to read the conclusion to which the Government came on 24th June ; but the hon. gentleman dealt with the House rather disingenuously, because he read the first statement made by the leader of the House before the discussion took place. But in that discussion the sense of the House was so manifestly against the suggestion of the Minister that he distinctly retracted his first statement, and at the close wound up in these words :

"I think the hon. gentleman may not have understood what I said. From the feelings expressed it appears that the House should, when it adjourns on Friday, stand adjourned until Tuesday at three o'clock, and then sit all next week."

That was very clear ; every hon. gentleman understood the determination come to ; no one protested at the time, and the members who come from the Maritime Provinces made their arrangements consistent with the understanding that they should stay here and discharge their public duties. There are some of us who would have given a good deal to be able to go and carry out business appointments which we had made ; but in consideration of the late period of the session, the enormous amount of work to be done and the necessity of coming to a speedy prorogation, we waived our private views and desires and consented to meet here on Tuesday, on condition that we should sit all week and make up the lost time on Monday. If we go on debating as we have been doing to-night we shall make our loyalty somewhat of a burlesque. To say that a man who goes to a lacrosse match is a loyal subject, while one who attends to his public duties is disloyal, is a strange test of a man's loyal-

ty. The late Prime Minister made it a test of our loyalty to sit on Dominion Day and attend to our public duties, and hon. gentlemen will consider his views as something of a test. We shall be dealing with the country in the most loyal way by staying here and attempting to discharge our public duties. I have heard the argument used many times that by adjourning over for a day we shall not lose any time. That may be believed by the younger members ; but it will not be believed by those who have been here for a number of years. Some hon. members in this House make their attendance in Parliament a pleasant interlude in the week. They come late in the afternoon of Monday or on Tuesday morning, and leave on the 4 o'clock train on Friday, and then they think they have discharged their duties. The consequence is that the session is prolonged for three or four weeks more than it ought to be. And as for the meetings of this important committee, hon. gentlemen know well that owing to our not being able to get a quorum we have not done in two or three weeks more than ought to have been done in as many days ; and if this adjournment takes place there will be not only no meeting of the committee to-morrow, but hon. gentlemen know that it will be impossible to get a quorum on Thursday morning. Possibly you may get one on Friday, and then some hon. gentlemen will go off on Friday afternoon for their usual holiday jaunt over Saturday, Sunday and Monday, returning possibly in time for the sitting on Tuesday morning. This thing is getting beyond bearing to the members from the Maritime Provinces, British Columbia and the North-West, who are compelled to stay here all the time. I think we have been rather long-suffering in this matter. We do not wish to object to reasonable adjournments, but the thing is being carried too far, and our good nature is being imposed upon.

Mr. DENISON. The hon. gentleman has referred to what took place on the 24th of June. By reference to the report for the 26th of June it will be found that Sir Hector Langevin moved :

"That when this House adjourns to-day it stands adjourned till Tuesday next at three o'clock in the afternoon."

Showing that there was no intention to adjourn over till Thursday ; but there being no remark made by the hon. Minister of Public Works in regard to meeting on Wednesday, the inference is that we were not to meet on Wednesday.

Mr. McNEILL. I think my hon. friend who addressed the House the last but one will agree that there are few members in this House who desire to get home more than I should ; there are very apparent reasons for that ; and I must say that, actuated by that motive more than by the desire for business, I was very glad when I heard that the House was going to sit to-morrow. But on thinking the matter over, I must say that there is a very great deal to be said for the view that it is scarcely the thing for the Commons of Canada to set the example of ignoring the national holiday. If we have done it once before I think that is the very strongest reason why we should not do it again.

Mr. MULOCK. Why ?

Mr. McNEILL. Because we are simply making a habit of it. If there were some exceptional reason why we should sit we might do it ; but if we con-