

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the honourable senator from London (Hon. Mr. Little) is absolutely right. I cannot understand why this should not be a joint committee. We have no distinct and separate interest in the grounds. Has the committee taken into consideration the possibility of having this responsibility transferred to the Federal District Commission? That commission has the organization, it has architectural assistants, and I should think it could administer the grounds much better than they could be administered by the Department of Public Works separately. My information is that the Rideau Hall grounds have lately been, or are very soon to be, transferred to the supervision of the Federal District Commission. I earnestly hope that this is correct. I think nothing is more absurd than to have the Rideau Hall grounds subject to the alternating whims and views of temporary occupants. The same may be said of these grounds. I would suggest that next session we should go about getting a joint committee, and that the present committee should at once take into consideration the wisdom of turning over these grounds to the Federal District Commission.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: It was suggested at yesterday's meeting of the committee that it would be an excellent thing to do something of that kind. While I have been on this committee, ever since I have been in this House, the Deputy Minister of Public Works has always been available and has done what he could. It can be readily seen that a committee of this kind cannot carry on satisfactory work unless it has a plan. The Federal District Commission has an organization, and the work might well be handed over to that commission.

Hon. CAIRINE WILSON: This committee is supposed to have jurisdiction at the moment over the grounds here and at Major Hill Park and at the Museum. It does not seem to be a very practical way of working that the man in charge has to cover so much ground at the three places.

The motion was agreed to.

COMMERCE AND TRADE RELATIONS REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The motion of Hon. Mr. McLennan for the adoption of the third report of the Standing Committee on Commerce and Trade Relations was agreed to.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Can the right honourable gentleman inform the Senate when we are likely to prorogue?

Hon. Mr. LITTLE.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: There is a variation in the opinion that has reached me. This afternoon I informed some honourable gentlemen opposite that we probably would prorogue at 11.30 to-morrow morning, but in the meantime I have had restored the hope that we may finish some time to-night. My suggestion now is that we call it six o'clock. The Supply Bill has to come over from the other House, and if it is sent over to us this evening it may be possible to prorogue a short time afterwards.

At 6 o'clock the Senate took recess.

The Senate resumed at 8 p.m.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: From the information that I have, which is very sketchy and unauthoritative, I think there is no chance of prorogation to-night. As soon as I am assured of that, I intend to move that when the Senate adjourns it do stand adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. As far as one can see now, prorogation to-morrow morning is a moral certainty.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX: The Royal Society meets at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Many of the members of both Houses belong to that society. Could not the right honourable gentleman say 11 o'clock, or half-past eleven?

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: Is there no chance of prorogation to-night?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I shall know probably in the course of two or three, or maybe five minutes.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: We will wait for an hour.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: In the event of there being no chance to prorogue to-night, I suggest adjourning till 10 o'clock to-morrow, for the reason that the hour usually set for forenoon prorogation is 11 or 11.30, and I should not like to have the Supply Bill come in just a few minutes before that time. It is not fair to the Senate. I am expecting word every moment. . . .

I have word that prorogation has been arranged for 11.30 o'clock to-morrow. I therefore move that when the Senate adjourns it do stand adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 10 a.m.