

## LIQUOR LICENSE ACT, 1883.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I move that the motion of Mr. Houde on the notice paper, "that this House is of opinion that the Liquor License Act, 1883, should be repealed," be the first Order of the Day for Monday next, and take precedence next after Routine Proceedings.

Mr. BLAKE. It was arranged some time ago across the House that this motion should be proceeded with to-day. It is well known that the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) had given a notice of motion on this subject, but as it was desired to reach a discussion on this subject, the motion of my hon. friend for Maskinongé (Mr. Houde) had precedence, and from time to time that motion has been postponed for one reason or another. Ultimately it was arranged across the House that this motion should be proceeded with this day. So late as last night on the adjournment, I called on the hon. gentleman to say what Government business he would take after that motion, whether that motion would come on first, saying that it might be possible to conclude it before adjournment, and asking what business he would take up after that. The hon. gentleman announced that he would take the first Government notice. I pointed out that that was not one that would take any time, and asked what he would take after that, and he said the House would probably go on with Supply. He now proposes, without any notice, that the arrangement made across the House, with reference to which we have arranged our affairs as to business, should be departed from, and that the motion of the hon. member for Maskinongé should not be considered, although it had been arranged across the House several days ago that it should be proceeded with to-day, and although that arrangement was repeated and reinforced across the House last night. Now, Sir, these arrangements across the House are sacred arrangements—arrangements upon the faith of which members on both sides act. They are arrangements with reference to conduct of public business which, if broken without any cause at all, without explanations given, without any proper justification, and without any other arrangements being made in consequence of that, render it quite impossible to conduct public business efficiently; and I think I have cause of complaint that the hon. gentleman should not have intimated his intention of departing from that arrangement—grave cause of complaint, the more so that I have been told that it was arranged yesterday that it should be departed from. If my information on that subject be correct, and it was arranged by the Government with the hon. member for Maskinongé, that his motion should not come on to-day but should be postponed until Monday, I have still graver cause of complaint, inasmuch as by that arrangement that decision had been reached yesterday. And it is difficult to understand how the conversation which took place last night could have taken place, how that could have been the understanding, and how it could have been repeated. That is the first point. The second one is, that I think the motion ought to go on. I see no reason why it should not go on. I do not see the hon. member for Maskinongé in his place, but no doubt he is in attendance—I saw him not long ago, and he told me he would be in his place this afternoon. If he is not here it must be because he understands that the Government is about to insist upon this postponement. I think this is a convenient day for the discussion of this motion. This is our day which was taken away from us by the Government, but taken away from us almost contemporaneously with the understanding that this particular Thursday should be devoted to the discussion of this motion. Then the hon. gentleman says: "No; we take the day away for Government business," although we had reason to understand, until we heard a rumour, two or three hours ago, that this licensing question, which is a very important

question, upon which the people's minds and the minds of hon. members are agitated, would be the *cheval de bataille* of the day. Then the hon. gentleman said: "I propose to have this discussion on Monday." Look at the order paper for Monday. Among other business there is a very important Bill, that for the incorporation of the Loyal Orange Association. By this arrangement that Bill will be thrown over for this Session, because the time for receiving reports of Private Bills will expire in a few days, after next Monday and before the following Monday; and if the measure is postponed over Monday first, it will not come on effectively this Session. Besides, rumour says the Government intend to take all succeeding Mondays. The hon. First Minister has had a conversation with the Minister of Inland Revenue on the subject I observe, and no doubt the Orange and Green are quite in accord as to this disposition of the matter. Whatever differences may have existed between the hon. gentlemen a while ago, which resulted in a painful, though fortunately only a temporary separation, no difference whatever exists between them on this subject. But there is a great deal more than that. There are three or four pages of important notices of motion in the hands of private members, which should come up and ought to be taken up, but which cannot be effectively debated if the proposal of the Government to take Mondays is carried. I think the proposition of the hon. gentleman is extremely objectionable; and I move the following amendment:—

That all the words after "that" be omitted, and the following inserted: "It was arranged across the House that Mr. Houde's motion on the Liquor License Act should be called as the first item of business, and before the Government business of this day; that this arrangement should be observed; that to fix the said discussion for Monday next will prevent the consideration of much important business in the hands of private members; that notices and Orders of the Day be postponed, and that the motion of Mr. Houde be called."

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman is quite mistaken in his opinion that there was any arrangement or suggestion of any kind declared yesterday with respect to this motion. I had no communication with the hon. gentleman, or with Mr. Houde—

Mr. BLAKE. I do not say that.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—of any kind; nor was there any determination come to or expressed by myself, or so far as I know by any member of the Government. All I can say is, that this morning the members of the Government had a conversation with Mr. Houde, and it was agreed to postpone the motion until Monday and make it then the first Order of the Day. I announced some time ago that the Government were very desirous that the House should be prorogued by Easter; and, in order to do this, it is necessary to push forward Government business. It was for that reason that we took Thursdays. I do not know whether the day was fixed for the discussion of the license question before Thursdays had been taken or not.

Mr. BLAKE. I think about the same time.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Then it was an open day.

Mr. BLAKE. Thursday had been taken and perhaps it was the same, or the next day, that this arrangement was made.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Thursday was suggested by me without recollecting the fact that it had been taken as a Government day. It can be of no consequence whether the subject be discussed to-day or on Monday; but I would ask the House to assist the Government in getting on with Government business. The hon. gentleman alluded to a number of notices of motion on the paper. On looking over them, I find that most of them are for returns, which may be disposed of on any Government day by taking half an hour, and it is the common practice on Government days, after considerable progress has been made with Government