

the Leaders in the other House, whom I will consult, feel that it is useless for us to remain here during this afternoon to await the result of their labours, I will move the adjournment to a day next week, probably Monday.

Hon. Mr. REID: It is quite evident from the remarks of the honourable gentleman that he does not expect anything to come from the Commons with reference to the Divorce Bill. Has he made any inquiries of the Government as to whether or not there is to be a vote upon it? If he has not done so already, will he inquire and let us know the situation at half-past two.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I understand that the Bill in question can only be taken up ahead of the Bills that stand before it on the Order Paper by the unanimous consent of the House. I think a request will be made for that unanimous consent, but I have not much hope that it will be granted.

The sitting was suspended until 2.30 p.m.

At 2.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, in conformity with my statement of this morning I sought the best information I could obtain, the result of which is that I will move now that the sitting of the Senate be suspended until 6 o'clock this afternoon. I am told that I shall have by that time sufficient knowledge as to the possibility of prorogation this evening, and I shall inform the House accordingly. If there is no possibility of prorogation, I shall naturally move that the Senate adjourn until Monday afternoon or Monday evening.

NAVIGATION OF WELLAND CANAL INQUIRY

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: Honourable gentlemen, before the motion to adjourn or suspend is put, I desire to draw attention to an inquiry which I made weeks ago and which I consider very important. This is the notice that I gave:

That he will call the attention of the Senate at its next sitting to the navigation of the new Welland Canal, and enquire from the Government:—

1. Has there been a consultation between the engineers and the marine officers of the Government or the captains whose vessels may navigate the new Welland Canal as to the method of operation?

2. Are the vessels to approach the locks and negotiate them on their own steam?

3. Is it the intention to employ tugs as in the Manchester Ship Canal?

4. Is it the intention to use locomotives as on the Panama Canal?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

5. If such consultation has not taken place, will the Government, in the near future, act in the premises in order that no delay occurs once the said canal is completed?

I made a few remarks at the time. I know the honourable Leader has forgotten this matter, and I forgive him.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am not so sure that I have forgotten.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I have made careful inquiry and there has been no answer given to these questions. Of course, what concerns only my humble self does not matter so much, but the dignity of the Senate is at stake, and when we ask a question of the government we are entitled, I think, to have some answer during the Session. The answer in this instance would have been very easy. Now that the honourable gentleman desires to have the sitting suspended until 6 o'clock, I think that between now and then he can easily obtain the answer if he will.

I have just now repeated my questions. I will not discuss them once more, for I explained them fully on a former occasion; but I would point out that if no action is taken in the matter to which I have drawn attention, it may require years to do what should be done in the first place. Unless some method is adopted by which the canal may be navigated, an expenditure of \$115,000,000 will be absolutely of no use to the shipping of this country. I dare say the inquiry had slipped the honourable gentleman's memory, but I think we are entitled to an answer. It is very important in the public interest that something should be done; otherwise, under present conditions, vessels cannot navigate the Welland Canal under their own steam.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend is in error if he thinks that the matter has slipped my memory: it has only slipped out of the Routine Proceedings. If the honourable gentleman had seen to it that his inquiry was retained on the Order Paper until he got an answer, it would have been before me each day and I should have had my secretary telephone the Railway Department. I did draw the attention of that Department to the matter. I do not know by what accident it has disappeared from the Order Paper before the answer has been given, for an inquiry should remain on the Order Paper until it is answered. I would point out to my honourable friend that this is Saturday and that on Saturday afternoon I may not find the Department open.