

is anything wrong in it, to have it righted. We have the statement to-day of the Government of this country, refusing to produce this document, urging one excuse after another, and the Minister of Justice standing up and moving in a perfunctory manner that this debate be adjourned. Somebody else has something to say about the adjournment of this debate besides the Minister of Justice. This debate will be adjourned when we are ready to adjourn it and not till then. The Minister of Agriculture gets up, child-like and bland the other day, and tells us that he never read this report, that his secretary never read it, that his deputy never read it, that none of his colleagues ever read it, and he bundled it up and sent it back to Sir Charles Tupper from whom it came. I doubt whether Sir Charles ever read it. This is the statement the Minister of Agriculture makes to us, and although Parliament has been sitting for over two months, there has been no effort on the part of the Government to have that document returned to this House: not until it was mentioned some days ago by the Opposition did the Government intimate that there was such a report, and until that time no step whatever was taken for the purpose of having it brought back. Now the Minister of Justice moves that the debate be adjourned, because he knows full well that the matter cannot come before the House again before prorogation takes place. The probabilities are that the Government will take the two days that remain to members in this House, and the strong probabilities are that if the hon. gentleman's motion is carried, it will be impossible for the members of this House to have an opportunity of examining the report given by these delegates. I repeat that, in my judgment, the conduct of the Government is disgraceful; they are ignoring and disregarding, utterly and entirely the rights of the representatives of the people of this House.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I suppose I might have interrupted the hon. gentleman when he accused me of having made this motion in order to burk discussion; but I preferred to wait until he finished his remarks in order that I might have an opportunity to repeat that the adoption to adjourn the debate will not, in any way, prevent the House from considering this motion before the end of the session, and at a very early date. I pledged myself when I made the motion—and I suppose it was in view of that pledge that the hon. member who moved for this return had the courtesy to acquiesce in the adoption of my motion—I pledged myself that the hon. member should have such an opportunity, even in advance of all other business of the House; and I repeat that in the hearing of the House, lest the hon. member who has just charged me with a desire to burk the discussion, may not have heard the observation which I made. I may add that the mere fact of the delegates, or one of them, if he has, or if they have, expressed opinion upon the public policy of the Government, will not, so far as I know, be a reason why the reports should not be laid upon the Table of the House. Therefore, I am not actuated by that view at all, or by any desire to suppress the report. We simply desired to have an opportunity of seeing the documents which are now called for, and in order that, if reason exists therefor, we might present them to the House in advance of the adoption of Mr. LISTER.

the order to have the papers brought down. If my motion passes to-day, trusting to our bringing them down or not, as we may deem best in the public interest, we should have an opportunity of seeing the papers before they are presented to the House. But we are not so much afraid of the opinion of one or two Englishmen sojourning in this country, criticizing our fiscal policy or any other branch of our policy, that that should be a reason for suppressing their reports, whatever they may be. My motion simply involves the ordinary courtesy of asking that the documents, which, I believe, are now on their way to us, should reach us and be read by us before they are put on the Table.

Mr. LAURIER. It is difficult to imagine what objection there can be to bringing down these papers, or why they should not have been brought down already. These are not diplomatic papers, there are no state secrets in them, they are simply reports of gentlemen entrusted by the Government to do certain work, and that work they have done. Now, it is, I presume, no secret abroad that the only reason why the Minister of Agriculture did not read these papers was simply because he did not like to find in them what he expected to find in them; otherwise it is not possible to imagine why he did not read these papers before returning them to Sir Charles Tupper—that is, the report of Mr. McQueen; as to the report of Mr. Davey, I understand to-day that it never crossed the ocean and that it remains in the hands of the High Commissioner.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I do not know that he made one.

Mr. LAURIER. I would be loth to suppose that a gentleman selected by the Government to do a certain work, had failed to perform his work; I would be sorry to suppose that Mr. Davey, after having visited this country at the request of the Government, should have been so neglectful of his duty as not to make the report which he was bound to make. I believe that he did submit his report in due time, and I believe it was through the negligence of Sir Charles Tupper that the report did not come. If I am doing an injustice to Sir Charles Tupper I shall be very glad to acknowledge it and apologize to him, if the facts hereafter disclosed should show I am wrong. Under the present circumstances it seems impossible to conceive why these reports were not made known. At all events, since the hon. gentleman who leads the House tells us that we shall have an opportunity of bringing up the matter again, I suppose we might as well agree to the motion to adjourn.

Mr. FLINT. I think the members from the Maritime Provinces have a right to complain of the action of the Government in delaying, and even suppressing this report. It is well known that for many years during the first portion of our Confederation, indeed up to quite a recent period, large sums of money have been voted by the Dominion Parliament in the hope of promoting immigration to this country, and the Local Legislatures of the Maritime Provinces have been obliged, during a large portion of that period, to appropriate funds, which might have been expended for other purposes, on efforts to promote immigration into the various provinces. So heavy was this drain on the provincial resources that this policy on the part