

to withdraw his motion as suggested by the hon. gentleman from Stadacona, and also by the hon. Speaker. When it comes up again, I shall claim the right to give my reason why I oppose it.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—So far as I have been able to follow the observations made, and the ruling of the Chair, the hon. gentleman proposes to withdraw his motion and submit another. We have had this matter before us many times, and perhaps a word or two in line with what the hon. gentleman from Hastings has said might not be amiss at this moment. I think we have gone quite far enough on this question. It comes very near to being a reflection on the House of Commons, and I think we should abstain, as the hon. gentleman from Halifax has said, at this time or at any time from doing that. Something may be said in debate, but when we come to a formal resolution embodying something of that character, it is rather a serious matter. It is well known that the general criticism on the House of Commons both in this Chamber and elsewhere is that the debates are too long. It is equally well known that the criticisms on this House, both in the House of Commons and out of it, is that we take too many adjournments. Supposing we were just to change two words in this resolution, and supposing it were sent from the House of Commons to us, what would we say? Supposing the resolution read in this way:

That the House of Commons deems it expedient to invite the Senate to co-operate with it by means of a joint committee to consider the advisability of devising methods whereby a more equal division of private and public legislation may be secured between the two branches of parliament, and adopting rules governing adjournments which will limit the time of adjournments so as to better expedite business.

If such a resolution as that were passed in the House of Commons and sent to us, we would be apt to regard it as impertinent. We are quite able to regulate our own adjournments, and I should think the House of Commons are equally able to consider the matter of the length of their debates and speeches. If the tables were turned, and a resolution to interfere with our rights and privileges with reference to

adjournments were sent to us from the House of Commons we would be very apt to regard it as a gross infringement of our privileges, yet that is precisely what we are proposing to do to the other chamber, because everybody must know that this resolution aims at curtailing the length of discussions in the House of Commons and not in the Senate. The hon. gentleman has had his resolution agreed to in this House. The moral effect of it, if any, is felt. It has all the effect it will have. Why not stop there and not send this resolution to the House of Commons at all, because it will certainly create friction, and be regarded as an infringement of the privileges of the Commons.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—I cannot understand how my esteemed friend from Marshfield always seems ready to be virtually my godfather in any matter I bring before the House. He is always prepared to suggest things that I should do. I am not, perhaps, as well versed in parliamentary procedure as he is, but I would respectfully suggest to him that he keep his suggestions, so far as I am personally concerned, to himself after this. Now I am willing to meet any reasonable suggestion that the House has to make with regard to this matter. I was honest in the motion I submitted to the House, and am still. I have no party end in view. It has not been placed in my hands by any one to accomplish anything. I am not acting under the inspiration of anybody. I act solely on my own responsibility as a member of this House, without being advised or instructed by any one. I have a great deal of respect for my esteemed friend from Hastings; he is an old parliamentarian, and he has made a suggestion with regard to the improvement of the resolution. I am willing, if the House thinks best, to drop the present resolution and move one in accordance with the suggestion of the hon. senator from De Salaberry.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—I would go a little further than the hon. senator from Marshfield. I think the motion should be withdrawn. It is a reflection on this House that it was ever brought up or even discussed. Although my hon. friend from