

I do? I determined to divide the House. In order to knock me off, Sir Hector Langevin said:

I spoke to the leader of the Opposition at the beginning of this sitting, and, though the news that we had then was not so serious as that we have now,—

He referred to a lamentable matter, namely, the impending demise of our great leader, Sir John A. Macdonald.

—I said we would probably ask for an adjournment at six o'clock, and the hon. gentleman agreed with me. I will now move the adjournment of the debate, and we will take care that the hon. member for West Assiniboia will not lose his place on the paper.

Now, Sir, I believe it is known with certainty that neither in this House at the time nor in the country, was there one man who felt more keenly what was taking place in a neighbouring mansion than I felt, nevertheless I had a duty to perform to my constituents, and I was determined to perform it, and you will find the following in "Hansard":—

Mr. DAVIN. Do I understand the leader of the Government to say that my question will stay at the head of the paper?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. We will give the hon. gentleman a chance of having his motion discussed.

Mr. DAVIN. Will the leader of the Government fix a place on the paper for it? I ask this question because I am pledged to divide the House on this question.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Divide it now.

Mr. LAURIER. I must say to my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), that, according to the rules of the House, if a motion for the adjournment of the debate is carried, his motion goes to the bottom of the paper. I should myself object to the adjournment, because I think a vote ought to be taken, and I believe he has a grievance. It is true that the hon. gentleman opposite told me, at the beginning of the sitting, of the condition of Sir John Macdonald, and that I said that I would be ready at any time to adjourn the House; but I am not ready to agree to the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. DAVIN. For the reasons I have stated, I cannot consent to the adjournment of the debate. I have carried my constituency with the whole weight of authority against me,—

And I carried it, mind you; I want hon. gentlemen to remember that I carried it with the weight of the House and with the weight of the Government against me.

—and I am pledged to my constituents to divide the House on this very question.

The House divided and the vote stood 87 to 73, the Government had a majority of only 14. What occurred after that? Sir John Thompson came and told me that he would put not only the Bill dealing with Dominion lands, but all my other Bills upon the Government Orders. I want to point this out to the Patrons, that if they want their principles carried out, it is not by silently and tamely lying down behind the

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Government, but by pressing them in this House and fighting for them like men. On the 3rd of August, when I had a Bill, No. 108, on the paper, as well as the motion which I have read:

Order being called for resuming adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Davin,—

That is, on the adjournment. Mr. Davin said:

I may explain that the principle of this motion is embodied in my Bill (No. 108) further to amend the Dominion Lands Act, and I think that the Government are likely to place that Bill on the Government Orders, so that I need not proceed with the discussion of this motion. I, therefore, move that the Order be discharged.

On September 18th Mr. Dewdney had his Bill, the Dominion Lands Act, before the House for the second reading, and on that occasion Mr. Davin, amongst other things, said:

I hope the Minister and the Government have considered the suggestion I ventured to make on the first reading of this Bill. I had a Bill on the paper and a resolution with regard to one of the clauses, and the House will remember that there was a very strong feeling in favour of a resolution embodying the principle of one of the clauses, and that feeling was expressed by a vote in this House, and there were other means taken to express the same sentiment. I withdrew that resolution, and I also refrained from moving the second reading of the Bill, because I was told by the Government that my Bill would be placed on the Government Orders. The reason it was not placed on the Government Orders was, that the Minister of the Interior brought down a Bill, and there would have been two Bills dealing with Dominion Lands on the Government Orders. The Minister of Justice is not here, but he told me that he would make a statement to the House at any convenient time, declaring that that was the position of the Government. Therefore, I assume that the principle of these clauses in Bill No. 108 is agreed to by the Government. One of the clauses deals with the prevention of the pollution of the waters, another deals with the sale of homesteads for taxes, and another deals with second homesteads. I assume that the principle of these clauses has been acceded to by the Government.

The Bill went into committee. I had had some conversation with Sir John Thompson, and it was agreed that while two of the clauses of my Bill were embodied in the then legislation, this one should be held over in order that they might learn certain facts that the Government thought it desirable to know before adopting that clause.

Mr. DAVIN. Before the Bill is reported, I trust that the hon. Minister of Justice will say something about the second homestead clause, because we really had a kind of understanding, though not such as pledged the Minister or the Government, that the matter would be placed in a more satisfactory position.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I certainly did promise that I would state our views upon the question of second homesteads before the Bill should be disposed of, at the time that the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) presented his resolution to the House.