

consent of the House. I contend that the Senate occupy a much more ludicrous position before the eyes of the country when we are brought here to do no business, but merely to say our prayers, than if we had adjourned. Any one who has followed the business of Parliament must know that the Senate for years has given conscientious attention to the legislation of the Dominion in its committees. There is where the work is done, and I can turn to the hon. gentleman on my right (Mr. Dickey) and say that perhaps no member of the Senate deserves more from Parliament than he does for the consideration, the attention, the ability and the patience which he has given to committee work. And it is telling, too, because you find the other day the House of Commons seriously considering the proposal to send all private Bill legislation to this House, according to the custom prevailing in England in regard to legislation in the Imperial Parliament. I repeat that the wise, careful and attentive consideration which this House gives and has been giving for years to the legislation of the country is telling—and perhaps against hostile public opinion—in favor of this House. I do not think, under these circumstances, that we should be called upon in this way to show that we have nothing to do, when the House of Commons has adjourned over Tuesday. I thought the other day, when some important Bill came up before the House, for instance the Promissory Note Bill, which would take some time in committee, and the North-West Lands Bill, the North-West Government Bill and some other Bills, that we might have them to-day. I do not see why these Bills were not remitted to this House to-day. Is it to suit the convenience of the gentleman that leads the House, and who had to go to Montreal, that the public business of the country is to be shoved aside in this way? I may feel it my duty before Parliament rises to submit a resolution to the Senate on this question.

HON. MR. SMITH—I am quite sure that had the leader of this House known the wishes of the hon. Senator from Richmond he would very likely have complied with them; but the hon. gentleman had some business to look after, to-day, in Montreal. He is to be here on Wednesday

morning, and there is considerable business to be done on Wednesday and Thursday before the Easter adjournment. I think the hon. leader, on all occasions, endeavors to comply with the wishes of the majority of this House, even against his own convenience. Tomorrow being a holiday, it is my intention to move that this House do stand adjourned until Wednesday next, and Wednesday and Thursday will be sufficient to bring up all arrears of business to that date.

HON. MR. MILLER—I have no doubt at all that everything that has been said by the hon. gentleman is quite correct, but I ask this House to consider first what this body represents. This body represents the highest court in the Dominion. It represents the first branch of the Parliament of a great country. It should not forget its dignity and its rights; and what are we called upon to adjourn over for? Why, to suit the convenience of an individual member of the House.

HON. MR. SMITH—No; no.

HON. MR. MILLER—I say it is, and unless this thing is moderated I will submit a motion and record the opinion of the House as to the way generally in which this House is treated with regard to Ministerial measures.

HON. MR. SMITH—I should say that the leader of the House intended to move an adjournment until the 7th of April, and that would have have taken in Easter week and a few days more.

HON. MR. MILLER—It is quite time that this House should speak out, if we do not want to go down to nothing.

THE SPEAKER—I understand that the motion now made by the Hon. Mr. Smith is to this effect: That the House do now adjourn until Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock.

HON. MR. MILLER—There is no notice of that motion before the House.

HON. MR. POWER—To-morrow will be a statutory holiday.

HON. MR. MILLER—There is no notice of this motion before the House, and I take objection to it on a point of order.