

posal which the hon. gentleman thought the Secretary of State should have set before the House was one that would not be entertained, and could not be entertained at the present time at any rate, by any one dealing seriously with the financial business of this country. That proposition was that in this Imperial Zollverein no duty should be charged by the colonies upon English goods. The hon. gentleman must see that the proposition is not a practical one at all. It would be impossible to carry on the government of this country without completely revolutionising our methods, if we were to adopt any such proposal as that. The proposal made by the hon. gentleman from Shell River would be a much better one than that, more practical I think, and more beneficial. I move the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. PRIMROSE—Before the motion carries, I would like to ask the senior member for Halifax a question. In his opening remarks, referring to the number of portfolios and the necessity for the retention of the office of Minister of Justice, he indicated that one of the others might go. Is he in a position to inform the House whether there is any immediate danger of any such contingency?

Hon. Mr. POWER—If the hon. gentleman will put his question in writing, I shall answer it.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Monday, 14th February, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE ADDRESS.

DEBATE CONTINUED.

The Order of the Day being called—

Resuming the further adjourned debate on the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech on the opening of the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament—

Hon. Mr. POWER said:—I trust the House will excuse my shortcomings in deal-

ing with the Speech from the Throne. I had hoped when the debate was adjourned on Friday that I should have felt in my usual fairly good fighting trim. I regret to say I do not. When the House adjourned I was dealing with the speech made by the hon. gentleman from Calgary (Mr. Lougheed), and I trust the hon. gentleman will not think it is through any want of respect for him that I do not continue doing what I was then engaged in doing. Before undertaking to deal with the speech, I may be permitted to make an observation or two on some remarks made by the hon. leader of the opposition, who, I am sorry to see, is not in his place: one of which, at any rate, I regretted to hear. The hon. gentleman made a reference to the hon. Secretary of State which pained me. The hon. leader of the opposition and the hon. Secretary of State have both exceeded the term of years which the Scriptures allows to man, and they have arrived at that time of life when the passions which are generally strong in early life have cooled off, and gentlemen cultivate, or are disposed at any rate to entertain, friendly feelings towards one another. The hon. leader of the opposition referred to the position of the hon. Secretary of State in this House and adverted, not in a cordial or friendly way, to the fact that the hon. gentleman was not now leader of the House; that first Sir Oliver Mowat, and next the present Minister of Justice, had been made leaders of the House. I do not think that that is a subject which particularly concerns the opposition; and I do not think there is anything remarkable in the circumstance. Sir Oliver Mowat is a gentleman who has occupied for some years an almost unique position in the public affairs of the country. He was by some years the senior of the hon. Secretary of State; and the Secretary of State had held office as a subordinate member in the Ontario government, of which Sir Oliver Mowat was the head. So that it was only natural that when Sir Oliver Mowat came into this Chamber he should take the lead, particularly as the Department of Justice is recognized as being a more important department than that of the Secretary of State. The hon. gentleman who now presides over the Department of Justice had also been together with the hon. Secretary of State a member of the Mackenzie administration, and had in that government filled a most important and