

posed the six months' hoist has asked leave to withdraw his motion. It would be better to comply with his request, and we can discuss the Bill in committee. Just now we are in a very peculiar position. I move that the hon. gentleman be allowed to withdraw his motion.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Is it not proper to discuss the principle of the Bill now?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I think it is. There will be no other opportunity offered. I think this is a most extraordinary Bill. Considering the occasion and the subject, no such important legislation has ever been proposed here before at such a stage of the session. Here is the Senate thinned out to a remarkable extent. I admit that those who remain are all wise men except myself, but at the same time it is not treating the House fairly. The hour for prorogation is fixed, and we cannot carry on this debate longer than up to three o'clock. I object entirely to this word alien. Acts of this kind are not to be approved of under any circumstances. Some of the clauses are of a beneficial character, but they belong to immigration, and should not be put into an Act of this kind merely to give it a colouring and pretense to carry it through. Speaking of Alien Acts I consider this an un-British measure. The British parliament has never, except in the gravest extremity, passed an Alien Act. It had always been a prerogative of the sovereign, but up to the time of the French revolution it was seldom acted upon by parliament. Then it became necessary to have an Alien Act. Why? Because there were 7,000 or 8,000 emigrés in England. The French Republic wanted to be recognized, and what was the answer of Lord Grenville? He said if the representative of the republic was there as the ambassador of His Most Christian Majesty, he would be willing to receive him, but as the representative of a republic he could not. Talleyrand was sent away on very short notice a few days afterwards when King Louis was killed. When Napoleon, after the peace of Amiens, demanded that the English people should send away from their country those who were there as he said, plotting against the government, what was the answer of the British government,

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and it was endorsed by the whole country? They said: So long as those people conducted themselves properly, they would receive the protection of English law. I mention that to show how seldom, and only in what dire extremity, such laws are made by the British parliament. We have no time to study the effect of this measure. Who on earth can study it as it goes along? The lawyers, who are sharp of intellect and trained to such work, may be able to grasp the question, but I confess it is more than I can do. The Bill as put forth in the first place, was a great bid for a certain vote. It was intended to take in one swoop the whole labour vote of the country. Never before was there such excitement started in a moment as when the terms of this Bill were known. The people all over the country, by a consensus of opinion demanded a change, and I think it was wise, so far as the party was concerned, and in that respect only, that the alien trouble could be remedied. I do not see anything in this Bill that we could not do just as well without. I do not see anything that is sufficiently attractive to be voted for except those clauses which provide what is already in the Immigration Act. I do not care how much the Bill may be amended, it would be better to drop it in the interest of the country and every one concerned, even in the interest of the political party at present in power. I think that would be the best course to take in the public interest. The Bill is not in accordance with British law.

Hon. Sir GEORGE DRUMMOND—Before the matter is dealt with, I should like to say that while I might not be inclined to move the six months' hoist, I would have renewed the appeal, as I indicated last night in one sentence, that the government should postpone this Bill for another session, for the reason that it has come too late and there is not time to give full consideration to the important questions dealt with in the Bill. It may be that the amendments made in the Bill as it is proposed to us now have removed in a very large measure the objections made to it. We will consider these clauses when we get into committee. It may be that they are perfect, but they suffer from the fact that they were in very bad company when they first made their ap-