

Mr. FRASER. I trust that what was understood and acted upon when we parted on Friday will be carried out. I was very much struck by a remark made by the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), who said he knew of no better way of honouring the day than by members sitting here and transacting public business. The hon. gentleman who spoke last seemed to think there was no understanding, or that nothing of this kind had been said. Either the hon. gentleman's memory must be defective or his loyalty must have carried him away. I am as loyal as any man, and I am ready to come here and work to-morrow, for I am far from home, while some hon. gentlemen can go home almost daily. It is very well for hon. gentlemen who can leave here at half-past ten at night and be home to-morrow with their friends, to observe the day there, but when members come hundreds of miles, and when the weather is not that of February, they are entitled to some little consideration. There is no reason why we should not sit to-morrow and do good work, and if hon. members wish to go home they can do so, and there will be a sufficient number left to transact public business. I, for my part, will see that I give no adverse vote to the Government which would prevent them from carrying on the business expeditiously. The proposition made by the leader of the House to-night shows a very vacillating policy, and I am much surprised at it. It was distinctly understood and stated by the Minister the other night that we should meet on Tuesday and continue to sit Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and had it not been for that understanding there are gentlemen here who would have gone home until Thursday, and it is not fair to them that a further loss of time should be proposed now. In the first place, the session is so late that we should meet here to do work, and in the second place it would be a breach of faith with the members of this House who accepted the statement of the leader of the Government that we should sit to-morrow. I shall vote that we meet to-morrow, because if we do not it is quite clear that very little business will be done this week.

Mr. MULLOCK. The reason assigned by the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Masson) that we should adjourn over to-morrow is one that has evidently come to his mind since the discussion of a few days ago. He now rests a claim for the observance of Dominion Day as a holiday on the grounds of loyalty, but I will point out that in 1885 the Government did not deem it disloyal to sit on the 1st of July. The hon. member was in the House at that time. If he took part in the duties of the House on Dominion Day as a further proof that loyalty was not much in these days I may state that in 1885 the Government which sat on the 1st July did not sit on the 4th July, and now we find them in 1891 saying that it would be disloyal to sit on the 1st July. I think we had better argue the question from the standpoint of our duties to the public and our duties to ourselves. I would like to call the attention of the Government to the fact that there are only two days in the week now for private members, and if the House does not sit on Wednesday does the Government propose to give Saturday as a private members' day?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). On Thursday last a number of members wished to have an adjournment until next Thursday, in order that we might have an opportunity of returning to our homes, but many members on the other side of the House stated they were willing to come here to-day at three o'clock and continue on working all the week, Saturday included. The members who wished to get home yielded to the sentiment of the House at that time, and we have been kept here doing nothing since then in order to allow those who live nearer Ottawa to make a visit home. These gentlemen are now much more loyal than they were last week; and I would like to know when they got their loyalty. They knew last Thursday that to-morrow was Dominion Day, and surely they were as loyal then as they are now. The leader of the House then told us distinctly that the House would meet to-day and sit each day during the week, and it is a gross breach of faith with us if the proposition is now carried out that the House shall not sit to-morrow. I hope the Government will have sufficient firmness and stability to maintain the position which they took with regard to this matter, and that they will not go back on the distinct and positive statement they made to the House that we should sit from Tuesday during the remainder of the week, Saturday included.

Mr. KENNY. There is a very general opinion and a very natural desire on the part of the members of this House that the business of Parliament should proceed with all the dispatch which is consistent with the faithful and intelligent discharge of the duties which the people sent us here to perform. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) has referred very feelingly to the members who live at a distance, and I desire to say, as one of the members of this House who live at a much greater distance from the capital than the hon. member for Bothwell, that on many previous occasions when short adjournments had been suggested I know that the members from the Maritime Provinces and from the distant western sections of the country have not objected to these adjournments, because it enabled their colleagues who live nearer to Ottawa to spend a few days at their own homes. My hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), during the course of the remarks he has just made, has stated that if we adjourn for to-morrow it will enable the gentlemen who live within easy access of Ottawa to go home and spend the great Canadian festival with their families. I do not think it would be possible to find a better argument in favour of adjournment than that which is given by my hon. friend. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) also tells us that we shall be here until some date in August, and if that is the case there is no great pressure of public business to-morrow, because it will be a private members' day; and, as has been remarked once before during this discussion, the prorogation of Parliament will not be expedited by one hour by us sitting to-morrow. As one of those members who live at a distance from Ottawa—a much greater distance than the hon. member from Bothwell does—and as one of those members who may have suffered by these frequent adjournments as well, it is my opinion that as this public holiday was made and proclaimed by the Parliament of Canada, as it will be observed as a holiday from Halifax on the Atlantic to Vancouver on the Pacific, as every Custom-house and post office will be closed, and as

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