

probably go as far as tyranny, if their interests warrant it.

But the Government should not delude itself with vain hopes; let it not expect any compromise on our part; we shall resist arbitrary action, brute force, despotism by all means open to us under the law of the country, and even, should that prove insufficient, under natural law; and should that even be of no avail, we shall appeal to the people, the absolute and almighty master in this country, to take in hand their own cause and drive from the sacred temple of the nation's liberties those who defile it and put it to vile use.

I shall not go into a detailed analysis of the three clauses of this resolution; several hon. members have already thoroughly considered their portent, as well as their probable outcome; they have shown peremptorily that they embody an arbitrary, dangerous and abusive principle, quite irreconcilable with British parliamentary institutions. The attentive reading of these three clauses definitely suffices to confirm that view. They are added to clause 17 which I quoted above. These three clauses read as follows:

(2) Every motion heretofore debatable made upon routine proceedings, except adjournment motions and every motion standing on the order of the proceedings for the day, or for the concurrence in a report of a standing or a special committee, or for the previous question, or the third reading of a Bill, or for the adjournment of the House when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, or for the adoption, in Committee of the Whole, or of Supply, or of Ways and Means of the resolution clause, section, preamble or title under consideration shall be debatable; but all other motions shall be decided without debate or amendment.

(3) Immediately before the Order of the Day for resuming an adjourned debate is called, or if the House be in Committee of the Whole, or of Supply, or of Ways and Means, any minister of the Crown who, standing in his place, shall have given notice at a previous sitting of his intention so to do, may move that the debate shall not be further adjourned, or that the further consideration of any resolution or resolutions, clause or clauses, section or sections, preamble or preambles, title or titles, shall be the first business of the committee, and shall not further be postponed; and in either case such question shall be decided without debate or amendment; and if the same shall be resolved in the affirmative, no member shall thereafter speak more than once, or longer than twenty minutes, in any such adjourned debate; or, if in committee, on any such resolution, clause section, preamble or title; and if such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall not have been resumed or concluded before two of the clock in the morning, no member shall rise to speak after that hour, but all such questions as must be decided in order to conclude such adjourned debate or postponed consideration, shall be decided forthwith.

(4) On Thursday and Fridays when the Order of the Day is called for the House to go into Committee of Supply, or of Ways and Means, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without putting any question, provided that, except by the consent of the House, the Estimates of each department shall be first taken up on a day other than Thursday or Friday.

In short, the following conclusions for instance, are implied in clause 3. Heretofore, the rights and privileges of members in the exercise of their duties as representatives of the people in this House were placed under the direct protection and safeguarding of the House itself and its Speaker; in future, those rights and privileges will be at the tender mercies of some minister of the Crown; a mere notice from him in relation to a subject then under discussion will be sufficient to forcibly close de plano the debate on the day following. How easy it will be on the day following to keep the House busy considering some other questions until two o'clock in the morning, and thus forestall the further consideration of that business which the minister is anxious to hide from the searchlight of the Opposition.

The Government itself through its most prominent exponents, admits that it might have recourse to such a scheme. I have evidence of it in the speech delivered by the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Meighen) in connection with this resolution on April 10. The hon. gentleman does not deny that he had something to do with the wording of this resolution; he even seems to glory in it; what a small thing to glory about! Obviously he was entrusted with the duty of covering up the dangerous features in these resolutions, of concealing whatever might be deemed objectionable in them. To that gigantic task he devoted himself with all his might, but unsuccessfully; his statements, however mellifluous, had only one object which was discernible: to try and hide the subtle venom which those three resolutions contained. Accordingly, pressed with inquiries, driven to the foot of the wall, he was forced to admit that clause 3 might in the end enable a minister of the Crown practically to forestall the discussion of any issue, and, moreover, to force through in a few minutes all the clauses of a measure: bill, resolution, estimates, &c., &c.

I quote herewith his own words in answer to remarks from the mouth of the hon. member for Welland (Mr. German):

Mr. GERMAN: Could not the Government keep off the discussion on that second day until, say, 1.30 in the morning, or twenty minutes before two o'clock, and practically shut off all discussion?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I see the point of the hon. gentleman and I am coming to it because it