

Lawrence-St. George if there were any general sentiment in accord with his own. But I am inclined to think that he is about the only person left who really wishes to speak.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Of course in this matter I shall be very happy to place myself in the judgment of the committee. But certainly the government would not wish to have the debate prolonged, and I really think it is the wish of the House that we should if possible, conclude this debate to-night. If it goes over to another day, the chances are that a number of the speeches made this afternoon will simply be repeated, and another day will be lost. May I point out to my hon. friend that we were ready to proceed last week with this particular item, but at the request of the acting leader of the opposition we deferred the debate from Friday last until this time, in order to give hon. members opposite the latitude and opportunity they wished.

Mr. CAHAN: I do not think you lost any time by that. Very good use was made of the time during which the discussion was deferred. It is not wise, it is not expedient, that it should go to the country that the Hudson Bay vote is being forced through at twelve o'clock at night without allowing due time for an expression of opinion by the members, for in the eyes of the country this is one of the most important issues before it. The hon. gentleman, as he knows, will have support on this side of the House sufficient to pass the measure when the final vote comes, but I think members on this side should have ample time to express their opinion. Does the right hon. gentleman insist that I should go on?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like to hear an expression of the view of the committee.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I do not think it would be fair to the rest of us from distant parts of the country to stay here during the whole session and who cannot get home at all, as other hon. members can, to postpone this debate. We postponed it last week to accommodate members who were unable to be present, and I agreed to that; I had no objection to offer. But I do not see why the hon. member should not go on now. We have been discussing this thing all day, and if it is put over until to-morrow some hon. gentlemen will probably be asking to have it postponed still further because some other hon. gentleman

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

is absent. I do not think that is fair to hon. members who have to stay here during the whole session.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We have certainly lost no time by any adjournment.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I say that any further delay is unfair to the members from the far west and from the Maritime provinces, who have been here since the 7th of January. A few of us went home during the first adjournment because we have our own affairs to look after, just as have hon. members who come from Quebec and Ontario and whose homes are comparatively near this city. I think my objections are well founded. The members for whom I am speaking cannot go away over the week end but have to stay here. Therefore I think other hon. members should be fair to us and let us go on with this matter and finish it up to-night.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I simply rise for the purpose of pointing out that the time of the House has not been wasted by any adjournment.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Hon. gentlemen may laugh, but the contention that there was any loss of time owing to an adjournment is entirely beside the mark. There was no time at all lost by it.

Mr. DUNNING: I should not like to be put in the position of attempting to force a vote through the House—I think that was the language used by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George. There is no intention of the kind. It is really a matter for the committee itself to decide. Judging from the sentiment of the committee, there seems to be a disposition to go on with this discussion.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Not to-night.

Mr. DUNNING: So far as the government is concerned we are prepared either to go on or to stop, as the committee itself may decide.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): There are a good many members who want to speak on the question.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like to make a request, without seeking to get more than an undertaking given in the way I think it might be given at the moment: If the government agree to adjourn the debate now, will my hon. friends opposite undertake to see that we can go on with the debate when the House meets to-morrow afternoon? I announced last night, as hon. members will