

Mr. McINERNEY. When do you propose to submit the amendment?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. On Monday.

Mr. BENNETT. When the debate commenced, the right hon. First Minister denounced the last Franchise Act, but last night he changed the tune of his remarks and apologized for the difficulties that confronted the House. The hon. gentleman stated that, if amendments were submitted from this side of the House he was prepared to discuss them, with a view to arriving at a mutual understanding and concurrence in the measure. It must be plain, from the discussion on what is only a slight defect, as compared with other defects that will be pointed out, that the Act cannot by any possibility go into effect. I would suggest that, as Saturday intervenes, a committee might be appointed from both sides of the House to see if it is not possible to arrive at a basis with respect to this Bill. It is obvious at the present time that the discussion may go on indefinitely on this line.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I can quite understand the desire of the hon. Solicitor General to have time to consider this question, in regard to which we have had a most interesting discussion, and he can obtain that time between now and Monday. But I might suggest, that it is impossible to proceed, in the absence of the clause or amendment which the hon. gentleman proposes to submit. I ask the leader of the House and the Solicitor General, whether it would not be the wisest course to adjourn the debate until Monday, because I am afraid, otherwise, we shall lose the entire evening. We are, in fact, beating the wind, when we are discussing a clause in the Bill in regard to which the Solicitor General proposes to submit an amendment, especially in view of the fact that it deals with a vital question. I think we would really promote the business of the House by adjourning the debate until Tuesday.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is not my intention to move an amendment to the section under discussion, but to introduce a substantive clause to relieve the particular condition pointed out.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It amounts to the same thing. We cannot continue the discussion in the face of the communication made by the Solicitor General. We have now two amendments before the committee. I suggested to my hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) to withdraw his amendment—the amendment was not submitted, but the hon. gentleman stated what he proposed to move—and to deal with the matter at a later period of the debate. The leader of the House must see the necessity, under the circumstances, of adjourning the debate.

The PRIME MINISTER. I think the answer given by the Solicitor General is con-

clusive. I understand, from the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, that he only wanted to affirm a certain principle and to leave the Solicitor General to provide the machinery, and he would not press his amendment. I understand, the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) will not press his amendment. The section can, therefore, be carried, the Solicitor General having promised to introduce an amendment at the next sitting. I suggest to proceed with the consideration of the Bill, which will not go through committee until the Solicitor General has brought in his amendment. There is no reason, at all events, why we should not consider other sections, leaving this clause, with the understanding that it will be supplemented by another one, which will be drafted in the direction suggested by the amendments submitted by the hon. members for Jacques Cartier and Halifax.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It would be a matter of great convenience to myself to have certain other clauses discussed. I will require the assistance of the members of the committee as regards section "c," which provides the date within which the election lists cannot be attacked by any action of a local legislature, and the committee could very well spend an hour in discussing that point.

Mr. TAYLOR. Have a conference.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My hon. friend the Solicitor General will see, on a little reflection, that what he proposes is absolutely impracticable. We have reached a cardinal point in the Bill. Not only the Opposition, but a large number of prominent members on the other side of the House supporting the Government, do not agree with this clause, as proposed. Two amendments have been moved by hon. members supporting the Government. No progress can be made under the circumstances, and the evening sitting will be entirely wasted, if the clause as suggested is not adopted and the debate adjourned. My hon. friend behind me (Mr. Bennett) also moved an amendment, but it cannot be discussed until the Solicitor General has submitted his proposition to the committee. If the Solicitor General had been prepared to submit his amendment at once, it could have been considered during the recess and discussed at the evening sitting, but he was not prepared to do so, and, no doubt, he acted wisely in taking further time to prepare it. I cannot understand why the Government should hesitate, anxious as we all are to deal in a business-like way with this measure and pass it as promptly as possible, to adopt my suggestion and adjourn the debate.

The PRIME MINISTER. I must confess, that I cannot understand why my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition insists so strongly upon having the de-