

Mr. DAVIES. Notwithstanding the energy of the hon. gentleman, I think he will find a great deal of difficulty in shifting from his own shoulders the responsibility which, it is quite evident, he now sees rests upon them. He refuses to accept the offer which has been repeated now, and which was made twelve hours ago.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). What is the offer?

Mr. DAVIES. That this unseemly effort of the Government to force the whole Bill through should cease; that they should be contented with passing the interpretation clause; that after thirty-six hours' sitting it is tyrannical and improper to try to force that through. Twelve hours having been expended upon a question which involved practically a revolution in our constitution, we propose that a division should be taken, and that we should then adjourn. They indignantly rejected that. They were bound to keep the Opposition here until they were physically exhausted, and then they hoped to rush their Bill through *holus bolus*. We have been thirty-six hours in session. Although several hon. gentlemen have something to say on the question, they are willing to facilitate the business of the House by passing the interpretation clause, if they can get any assurance from the Government. The hon. gentleman does not say that the Government will not force it through, but he said they have the physical force to do it. The threat he held over our heads was, that if we let the debate fag they would force the Bill. The country is watching you, he said, and the country will take a memorandum of the time you are talking. We are not ashamed of that. We know the proposition he has made is distasteful to the better men on his own side, and that he cannot carry it through without amending it; and does he think, because he holds out a threat to keep us here till Sunday morning, that we will fail in our duty, and allow him to force the Bill through? What boots it whether the leader of the Opposition is in his place or not? He is in bed, taking needed rest. Why should he not be? Is that a charge against him? It is trifling with the question to insist that he should be here. The responsibility rests upon the hon. gentleman, and he knows it. Let it be made public. If we are kept here longer, let it be known that it is because he will not adjourn; because he holds the threat that they have more physical power than we have, and that he hopes we will be exhausted. If it comes to that, we will not. Sunday morning may dawn, but he will find that he will not pass his Bill through. We have sufficient moral force and sufficient energy to resist the act of a tyrannical Government.

Mr. GUILLET. Louder.

Mr. DAVIES. I wish my voice could ring through the hon. gentleman's constituency.

Mr. GUILLET. It did.

Mr. DAVIES. The hon. gentleman knows that this is an act of tyranny, and that it is unfair to force it. The Government will not give the ordinary courtesy, always given the Opposition, of stating how far they intend to proceed with the Bill, as is customary in the English House of Commons, and has always heretofore been in this. No, they refuse to do this; and the hon. gentleman who is leading the House now (Sir Hector Langevin) said they would take advantage of our physical weakness, because we were inferior in numbers to the Government side.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. What I said was, that I had no doubt that hon. gentlemen opposite were very strong, but that I did not think we were less strong than they. The hon. gentleman wishes the House to understand that we declared or hinted our intention to rush the Bill through and not give time to the Opposition to discuss it. We never said or hinted that. The hon. gentleman will see that if the

clause of which he speaks had been passed yesterday morning we could have taken up the next clause; and if hon. gentlemen opposite thought fit, they could have gone on discussing that clause during the whole night, as they have done this one. They could have given the same intelligence and physical force to the discussion of that, as they have to the word Indian; no one could prevent them. But hon. gentlemen opposite refuse; they want to keep discussing the word Indian all the time. To say that we intend to rush the Bill through, is to say that we intend to do something which we are unable to do, as long as hon. gentlemen opposite are not willing.

Mr. CHARLTON. The Minister of Public Works carefully conceals the fact that upon the very first occasion on which this House went into Committee of the Whole on this Bill it sat until two o'clock, and the Opposition then asked for an adjournment. The Government refused, and in doing so they were guilty of a tyrannical act. It is tyrannical to ask this House to sit after two o'clock, unless under the pressure of immediate necessity. To that hour the discussion was perfectly legitimate and no time was lost; but the House was kept in session until ten o'clock the following night. At the outset of this debate the Opposition had reason to complain that the Government intended to force the measure through by sheer physical endurance. We resumed the discussion yesterday, and no candid man will assert that up to four o'clock this morning the discussion was not legitimate and proper. Again the Opposition asked for an adjournment and again it was refused by a tyrannical majority. The Opposition pleaded that if an adjournment were granted the Bill could be brought on at three o'clock in the afternoon, and the discussion would proceed from day to day, without waste of time and without impertinent and improper discussion. We asked that the sittings should last until two or three o'clock each morning, pledging ourselves that the discussions would be proper and to the point. That demand was refused, and the evident intention was that the Bill should be forced through. We have resisted the accomplishment of that purpose and defy the tyrannical Government to effect it. I venture to say that if our proposition had been accepted we would have been through with the interpretation clause of the Bill, containing seventeen sub-sections, which we have not yet touched. We do not stand here as did the gladiators in the Coliseum at Rome, called out before the Emperor to lay down their lives; we are not prepared to bow down and say: "Great Cæsar, we who are about to die, salute thee." We do not feel that we are about to die, and we defy the Government to attempt to stifle proper and legitimate discussion upon the most important measure ever introduced in Parliament. We defy them to do their worst. I charge upon the Government the responsibility for this unseemly prolongation of the debate; I charge them with the manifest purpose of keeping the House continuously in Session from day to day with the object of exhausting the physical force of the Opposition, and forcing through this iniquitous Bill, without a proper discussion being had of its provisions. Notwithstanding the attempt of the Government to thwart discussion on this Bill—a Bill more iniquitous in its character than any ever introduced in this House—by a continuous sitting of the House, we are determined that all its provisions shall be fully discussed before the Bill is allowed to become law.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). The proposition made yesterday morning at 4:30 was not that we should pass the whole interpretation clause, but the particular sub-section upon which we are now engaged, that relating to the word Indian, and that we should come back at three o'clock and go on with the discussion of the other portion of the Bill. The proposition now is, that we should pass the word Indian and the other portions of this interpretation clause and then