

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I know of no caucus where the question was considered, and I was not invited to any.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Then I am wrong, and will withdraw my statement.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I notice in the 'Free Press,' which is the organ of the government, a statement published, that it was an arrangement between the supporters of the government and the opposition and that the Senate were a party to it. Immediately upon reading that I wrote to my hon. friend on my right from Prince Edward Island (Hon. Mr. Ferguson) asking him if he had any knowledge or understanding to that effect, and he replied that he knew nothing of it except by ordinary rumour. I take this opportunity of correcting the statement. The hon. gentleman will excuse me for interrupting him, I forgot to mention the matter yesterday, and I wish now to give a flat and positive denial to the allegation. It was also stated that the bargain was in consideration of voting for the Autonomy Bill. Now if there was any such bargain as that, it must have applied to the hon. gentleman's friends and not to us who voted against the measure.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I never heard that the Autonomy Bill had anything to do with it. I know that negotiations had been going on, I will not say with the members of this House, but with the members of the other Chamber. That is a matter of notoriety.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Let it be known publicly then, that the senators here opposing the government had no knowledge of it, and were not consulted.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I accept the statement as correct. On the 19th of July all the Bills had been disposed of, and parliament prorogued on the 20th. Therefore the charge that we rushed Bills through without giving the senators an opportunity of discussing them really has not the foundation that he thought it had.

I see that the House of Commons has already got down to business, and I hope within the next eight or ten days to be able to submit some Bills for the consideration of the Senate. I notice that an hon. gentle-

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

man has given notice that he proposes to put the question to the government whether they cannot arrange to have a better division of business. As there are only two members of the government in this Chamber, naturally the bulk of the Bills introduced must be in charge of the ministers to whose departments they relate, and it is a difficult thing to induce the ministers to give up what is naturally an appendage to their office, but at all events I think some Bills will be introduced in this Chamber at an early day.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I regret that I should have to interfere with my hon. friend the senator from Queen's, who usually follows the leader of the House on occasions such as the present, and to whom I invariably listen with the greatest of pleasure; but as the leader of the House has spoken, and as my hon. friend the leader of the opposition has also spoken, it is perhaps only fair to the leader of the newly created third party in this House that he should now have his turn to speak. I have no intention, however, to prolong the debate on the subject matter of the address, because it is not calculated to excite very protracted discussion, and already we have listened to four able and exhaustive speeches, but I do desire to avail myself of the opportunity afforded by the concluding observations of the leader of the opposition last evening, and those just made by the leader of the House, in reference to several important measures which passed through parliament at the close of the last session, when I was absent from my place owing to illness. I allude amongst others to the Indemnity Act and the Pensions Act. It is more satisfactory, at least to myself, that I should take advantage of the opportunity which is now afforded me to make some personal explanations which otherwise, perhaps, I should be compelled to make under a formal motion, thus giving them a prominence which they do not deserve.

I need not, I suppose, remind hon. gentlemen that I have been made the subject of several newspaper notices in regard to my supposed opinions upon these important measures which passed this House at the close of the last session, and, also that I have been represented as having assumed