

dignity as members of this House, and if a proper regard had been shown by the Government of the day towards the members of that party, we should never have been face to face with such an unhappy and such an unprecedented crisis as meets us to-day. Sir, the people of this country are deeply concerned in the crisis that we are now called upon to humiliate ourselves as members of Parliament by observing. My hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) has not been too strong in expressing his opinions on this subject, and the leader of the Opposition has, I think, very moderately requested the leader of the House to take the constitutional course. I will not discuss whether harm can come of it or not. I am quite sure of this, that it will be impossible for the leader of the House, or impossible even for my hon. and learned friend (Mr. Weldon, Albert), who is usually supposed to be an authority on constitutional questions; it will be impossible for him to show that any harm can come of it. What harm can come from the representatives of the people in this House, who are the source of power to which the Government must look, coming here from day to day, to know what progress has been made? I am not going to discuss, or to remark on the filling up of offices, further than to say that I regret to see these offices being filled up. I do not know whence the motive of the movement to fill up offices comes, but it is regrettable, and I do not think it is in the interest of the Government, or of the Parliament, or of the Conservative party. My desire is, that the party of which I am a humble member, the party that at this minute represents the people of Canada, the party that up to the present commands the confidence of the people, my desire is that it should guide the destinies of our people. I defy hon. gentlemen anywhere, in or out of this House, to show that the policy of the Conservative party at this moment is not a policy dear to the heart of Canada.

Mr. FORBES. You cannot vote for it yourself.

Mr. DAVIN. What is that? Speak up and let me hear.

Mr. FORBES. I say that the hon. gentleman dare not support the measure of the Government on remedial legislation.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, when the Government measure on remedial legislation, of which I know nothing—I have not seen it—when it is brought forward I will discuss it. I was speaking of the general policy of the Government. I did not expect to be challenged because I did not expect that anything of a party nature would be said here just now, but as I have been challenged, I will go further, and say that from a far larger point of view than

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the trade policy, from a point of view truly Imperial, it would be a disastrous thing if, at this minute, anything should occur that would place power in any other hands than in the hands of that party which has the instinct and tradition of Government, and has no undivided allegiance—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIN. The party which has no divided allegiance to the great Empire of which this Canada forms an important part. Now, Sir, I turn aside from these party amenities into which I have been unwillingly drawn. I hope that my hon. friend the leader of the House will not press the motion. I do not think that any leader of the House could object to the language or tone of the leader of the Opposition, and I entirely agree with the position that hon. gentleman (Mr. Laurier) has taken in this matter.

Mr. McNEILL. Mr. Speaker, I desire merely to say a few words. I heard with very great pleasure, indeed, the friendly and kindly remarks that have been made from the other side of the House on every occasion on which we have met here during this session, in reference to the leader of the Government. I would have appreciated those remarks still more highly had they been followed up to-day by deeds. All that is asked by the leader of the House is a very small matter, and I have not heard any argument whatever to show that the request made could do any harm to any interest in this country. It is asked that on Friday and on Monday this House should not sit. It is known that the House does not sit on Saturday or on Sunday, and when the suggestion is made by members on the other side that four days are asked for, that statement is a proof that their position in opposing the motion is a very weak one. Two days' adjournment is practically all that is asked. I am quite sure that my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition is wholly sincere in the kindly remarks he has made in reference to the hon. gentleman who leads the Government of this country to-day, under the very painful circumstances that exist. I would appeal to the leader of the Opposition to exercise his generosity in this matter, and to withdraw his objection to this very harmless and reasonable proposal. The hon. member for West Ontario (Mr. Edgar) asked what harm can be done if the House does meet. I would answer him that the First Minister asks for this short adjournment in order that he may be better able to carry out the work he is engaged in, and unless some real danger can be shown, I do think that ordinary generosity might induce hon. gentlemen opposite to acquiesce in the request.

Mr. MULOCK. The hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) tells us that the First Minister has sent a message to this