

this Dominion Day as our great national holiday, and assist in doing honour to it in every particular. I think, as members of this House, we should be the very first to set the example in observing the day. Therefore, I propose that we do not sit to-morrow for the despatch of business, but that we adjourn until Thursday next, and make to-morrow a gala day as far as possible.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If there was any intention at all of keeping Dominion Day as a holiday it is most unfortunate that it was not decided long ago. A large number of members have returned at great personal inconvenience to be present here to-day, and to assist in carrying on the business of the country. Now, if we make to-morrow a holiday, not merely will to-day be practically thrown away, but to-morrow will be practically thrown away, and a great part of Thursday as well, and you might almost as well sacrifice this whole week. More than that, a very important committee has been summoned for to-morrow in consequence of their being unable to sit to-day. There, again, there will be a serious loss of time, and I must say for my part that under the circumstances I think, after the decision of the Government to the effect that they would sit to-morrow, it would be a very unfortunate thing if they should be induced now to alter their determination.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. When this matter was before the House on Tuesday last it was discussed with a view to adjourning to Tuesday or Thursday of this week, and the expression of opinion was that we might adjourn until 3 o'clock on Tuesday, as was done, and the other days might be used as ordinary days for the business of Parliament; but I must say that since that was done, and during to-day especially, a great many members who were disposed to say that Dominion Day might be used for the business of the House, have expressed a different opinion. They hold that to-morrow should be observed as Dominion Day, not because if the House sat hon. members could pass a few notices of motion or matters of that kind, but because it is Dominion Day. A very large number of members have expressed the opinion that, after well considering the matter, they believe, although inconvenience may be caused to some hon. members who have been compelled to remain here, they should observe Dominion Day as it will be observed all over the Dominion. The Government were of the opinion that we should observe it if possible, but seeing that members of the House thought otherwise they did not object; but seeing the feeling that now prevails in the other direction, that we should not sit to-morrow, but observe it as Dominion Day, a day set apart to celebrate our political state as a Dominion, the Government are willing to accede to it. Under the circumstances, and as it was recommended that we should sit on Saturday to make up the loss of Wednesday, I think the House should observe to-morrow as Dominion Day, and the Government are ready to do so, and do it with great pleasure.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I think the House has been deceived by the course taken by the Government. There are many hon. gentlemen on this side who live at a distance from here, and if they had been aware that the intention of the Government was not to sit to-morrow they would have opposed

sitting to-day. I was anxious to go to London, but I could not go on a single holiday, and there are many members living at a distance who are in a similar position. Why were we brought here to-day if the intention was to make to-morrow a holiday. When the Ministers spoke about a meeting on Tuesday every hon. gentleman thought it was a choice between Tuesday and Thursday. No one for a moment supposed that to-morrow was to be taken as a holiday if we were to meet to-day. If hon. gentlemen feel strongly as to keeping the day as a holiday, and serving their country better outside of the House by attending sports elsewhere than by working here in the public interests, they should have expressed their opinion when the matter was under discussion. There is a fair prospect that under any circumstances we are likely to be here into August, and hon. gentlemen opposite apparently wish us to remain here until September. I may say for myself that I am opposed to making to-morrow a holiday. I suppose that our Roman Catholic friends regarded yesterday as a day of religious observance, or I would have been in favour of sitting yesterday. But to take more holidays than are absolutely necessary in the state of the public business is a monstrous proceeding. We should have been called together in February last, but instead Parliament was dissolved and we were sent to the country. We were called here at the most inconvenient season of the year, at a season when every man's private business requires his attention. We have been called on to make great personal sacrifices at this season for the purpose of promoting the political interests of hon. gentlemen opposite; and now, after stating last week that we were to meet on Tuesday and continue to sit during the week, it is proposed to change that decision; but the proper time to consider it was when the subject was under discussion before.

Mr. MASSON. I am surprised that the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) should object to to-morrow being observed as a holiday. I am very much surprised that any loyal Canadian should object to that day being a holiday. It is declared to be a statutory holiday all over the country, and it would be strange indeed that this House of Commons should override the statute in that respect and declare that day should not be a holiday when all over the Dominion it would be so kept. When the discussion took place as to the adjournment from Friday till Tuesday or Thursday objection was raised to the two days, and I do not think there were many members deceived. If the hon. member for Bothwell was deceived it was certainly not by anything said by the Minister of Finance or of any member of the Government stating there would be a sitting on Wednesday. Some hon. members suggested that the House should sit on Monday as well as Wednesday, and all this was due to the anxiety expressed by hon. members from a distance to hurry through the business. But as to the importance of sitting to-morrow in order to hurry through business, how much will business be advanced? Some private Bills will be advanced a stage or two and nothing more will be done. The business of the House will not be brought to a close one hour sooner by sitting to-morrow, and it is not only the consensus of opinion in the House but in the country at large that Dominion Day should be observed as a holiday.