

rance that they will not rush the whole Bill through to-night before we rise. We are willing, on the assurance from the Government side that they do not wish to force through the enacting clauses of the Bill, to pass the interpretation clauses and adjourn. No one will declare this is not an honest, fair offer. It was made early this morning and refused. What progress have we made since? Would it be reasonable now to take up the enacting clauses of the Bill and carry them at this late hour; half-past one, after having sat continuously thirty-six hours, and when most of the members are in bed. We are willing to do everything to further the progress of the business of the House, but we want it to be put on record that at 1.30 a.m., after a sitting of thirty-six hours, the Government will not give any assurance that they will not force through the whole Bill this sitting. It is unjust, unfair, and an act of tyranny. As long as the Opposition are composed of flesh and blood they must resist it, and if they did not, they would fail in their duty to their constituents. Hon. gentlemen on this side are willing to stop further discussion and go on with the business, if the Government do not wish to press the enacting part of the Bill further to-night. I want that to go on record, so that, in the future history of this Parliament, when perhaps that will come up and the Opposition will be charged with obstruction, we will be able to refer to it as an offer we made twenty-four hours ago, and which we repeat now, and it is because of the non-acceptance of this offer that the House is being detained here, at the sacrifice of the health of hon. members, and in a manner that reflects very little credit on the Government side, exhausting the Opposition until our physical strength is almost gone, simply in the hope that, at a late hour, they will be able to force the Bill through, when members are not in their places. It is a position that cannot be defended, and the silence of the Government benches shows that they know it is indefensible.

Mr. CASEY. It would be unreasonable to expect that we could get further than the interpretation clause this week. We all know there is important business to be done next week, besides this Bill, and it is only justice to give members some rest before they attack the business of next week. Of course, on subsequent paragraphs of this clause there may be some discussion, but I should think half an hour would finish the whole of it, if it were understood that an adjournment would then take place.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I was not here at half-past four this morning, but I am informed that the offer of hon. gentlemen opposite was that if this side of the House were disposed to adjourn they would allow the word "Indian," or the paragraph in reference to it, to go through. That was refused, and properly refused. Hon. gentlemen say, later on, during the discussion to-day, that if that had been accepted that paragraph would have been adopted, and we would have been much more advanced, because at three o'clock we could have taken another portion of the clause. Nevertheless, the hon. gentlemen who would have been then satisfied with the passage of that paragraph, when they had said all they had to say about the word "Indian," took from half-past four till now to discuss that word "Indian." Therefore the responsibility of having taken twenty-three hours additional to discuss a word that they admitted they had already sufficiently discussed, of having consumed that time of the House and the money of this country, rests upon hon. gentlemen opposite. Since the 16th or 17th of April they have had this Bill before them, and if you refer to *Hansard* you will find that they have had three-fourths, if not four-fifths, of the discussion. They cannot complain that they have not had fair play and plenty of time to discuss the matter, but the country will know that, up to this moment, they have prevented the passing of one single clause of the Bill; only—I must say it, because the country

Mr. DAVIES.

will say it, and history will say it—only to waste the time of the country and of the House. Surely in five or six hours they could have said all they desired to say on the word "Indian," but they have repeated themselves hour after hour; they have read the Indian Bill five or six times to-day, one after the other, and the responsibility must rest upon them. I am sorry that hon. gentlemen have put me in the position of stating that, but I am bound to claim what is right and true, that the responsibility of the waste of time rests upon them. They have dragged on the discussion, and now they offer to pass the remainder of the clause, after proposing two or three words of change, as the member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) has stated, provided the House will then adjourn. Hon. gentlemen know that during all this day they have had negotiations going on, and that the answer made to them has been: If your side of the House desire to make arrangements of this kind, let your leader be in his place, and our leader will be here, and let the arrangements be made openly before the House and the country, with the authority of both sides. That we were ready to do, and that we are ready to do at this moment. We have no desire to drag on the discussion. Our mettle is not stronger than theirs, but thank God it is as strong, and we intend to remain here as long as hon. gentlemen wish to continue the discussion. But it is not fair to the Government, to the House or to the country, to drag it on in this way. We have been, I suppose, thirty-four hours here discussing only the one word "Indian," and all the discussion has been on the side of hon. gentlemen opposite. For the last twenty-four hours we have not had one speech. They have had all the discussion, and they will try and make the country believe that they require twenty-four hours to express their views of one word. The country will not believe that, but will believe that hon. gentlemen have wished to interrupt the proceedings of this House and to prevent the passing of this Bill; that they, the minority, desire to impose their will on the majority. Representative institutions require that the majority should rule. We are not disposed to give up our rights as a majority, but we are disposed to hear everything that hon. gentlemen have to say, and if they have a good suggestion to make, let it be made in the proper way, as we used to make suggestions in reference to Bills before the House. But do not let them try to prevent the business of this House being proceeded with; do not let us continue for twenty-four hours on a word which they said they had discussed sufficiently twenty-four hours ago.

Mr. CHARLTON. No.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes. Hon. gentlemen have stated that all day, and have reproached us with not having acceded to their request to pass that word at that time. But they said: As you did not do it, we will discuss it again. Was that for the purpose of letting the country or the House understand that word better? No; it was to prevent the Bill going on, to prevent the business of the country from being carried on. That was the object and nothing else, and the country will know it, and the responsibility will rest upon hon. gentlemen opposite. Perhaps they will find, before they are much older, that their acts in this House have been noticed outside, that the time expended by each of them has been noted outside, and that that will go to the country, and that the country will know that each member has expended so much of the time and money of the public. Each member must take his responsibility. The Government are ready to take their responsibility. If they are in fault the representatives of the people know what they have to do; but between that and preventing the business of the country from being carried on is as great a distance as between right and wrong. I repeat that we are ready to have our leader here if they have theirs there.