

period of the extension subsequently gave rise, is it any wonder that the Leader of the Opposition should have felt that, not only he, as a responsible leader and a party to that extension, but more especially the people of Canada, whose supreme rights were involved, had been grossly deceived, when as a consequence of the suspension of the constitution for a period of twelve months, on the understanding that no controversial measure would be introduced, the weapon of the closure was restored to, in order to force through legislation without any opportunity being afforded the people for an expression of their will.

Let me read to the House words which express the understanding on which that extension was granted, and ask whether or not it is true that the spirit of the constitution was violated in the enactment to which I have referred. They will be found in Hansard of February 8th, 1916, at page 634. Justifying the course of the Opposition in assenting to the extension, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: