

of course, between the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire and agreements between other commonwealths of the empire. The date agreed upon for making public the agreements in their entirety is about October 13. Obviously it is another day entirely when one is on the other side of the day line in the Pacific ocean. The difference in time between London and Ottawa is something like five hours, and in other parts of the country it is still greater. However it would seem to meet the convenience of all if on Wednesday next the resolution be moved ratifying the agreement with the United Kingdom, and bills introduced with respect to the other agreements. If the motion were made here about four o'clock in the afternoon the British government would be in a position to release on the thirteenth all the agreements, in their entirety, so that they may be printed in the morning papers of that day. We have arrived at an arrangement of that character.

There is no proposal to go forward with business at the present time other than that dealing with the agreements, and the introduction of the redistribution bill. This latter business is a matter of form, inasmuch as the schedules are sent to a committee. Certain changes in the excise law have to be made to conform to changes in the customs tariff, and certain administrative changes with respect to the conduct of business in the income tax department, but no substantive changes in the structure of the act itself. There are some departmental matters which may or may not be considered, depending entirely upon the attitude of the house.

There remains for consideration, in addition to the agreements to which I have referred, the report of the royal commission on railways and transportation. That report went to the printers on the day it was received, but inasmuch as there are certain charts which have to be completed it is not probable that it will be laid on the table of the house before Tuesday. It is expected however that we will be in a position to lay it on the table that day. We regard the report as a very important document, and depending entirely upon the attitude of the house after it has had the opportunity to read the report, we will submit a bill based upon it for the consideration of parliament. As a matter of fact the bill has been prepared. Whether or not the house will proceed beyond giving it second reading at this time, or will wait until it reconvenes will depend entirely, I take it, upon the conclusions arrived at after members have had the opportunity to peruse the

report with care, and appreciate the character and far-reaching effect of the recommendations and conclusions put forward by the commission.

It is believed, as I have said, that the public interest will best be served by limiting the business at this time to the matters I have indicated. Hon. members who have looked at the votes and proceedings will observe I have given notice that I will on Monday next move:

That on and after Monday the 10th instant and every day thereafter, government orders shall have precedence over all business except questions by members and notices of motions for the production of papers.

The effect of that motion, if adopted by the chamber, will be to give precedence to government business, with the exception of questions by members and notices of motions for the production of papers. We believe it is the wish of all hon. members in the house, compatible with their sense of public duty, that at this time the house should conclude its business as rapidly as possible. It is then proposed to adjourn. If however the motion I have just read is adopted we purpose to rescind it immediately after reconvening of the house and to carry on the business of the house as though this short meeting had not been held, so that private members will have their entire quota of days thereafter, and that the general provisions not only for private members' days but for the conduct of other business shall be as though this meeting had not been held. The effect of that will be to reserve to private members all the days they would have, but those days will be after the house reconvenes and not now. If it is the temper of the house that the motion I have just indicated I will submit on Monday should be adopted to-day—which could only be done by unanimous consent—it would be a step forward; if not, the motion will be made on Monday.

I do not think there is anything further I can say as to what is proposed to be done at this time or as to the conduct of business between now and the date of adjournment, which obviously one cannot fix until the business is disposed of.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the government to have the debate on the address concluded before the adjournment?

Mr. BENNETT: It was hoped that that would be so; it would depend entirely on the opposition, for which I am not able to speak.