

reply: "Oh, yes, that is true, but we have fully considered all those bills and have amended them where they required amendment, and sometimes extensive amendment, and we are returning them to your Chamber. But you must realize this situation"—and I confess I was speaking somewhat facetiously—"that you gentlemen of the Commons address yourselves to your electors, while we in the Senate address ourselves to the question; which is a much shorter and far more expeditious procedure."

One fact to which I would draw the attention of that section of the public which may be disposed to criticize us because we adjourn at this time—for we have been subjected to criticism during the past two weeks—is that members of the House of Commons inscribe their names on a list to signify their intention of speaking on a certain subject, and, having done this, they go to their rooms and prepare speeches which may follow the exact trend of thought and argument contained in ten other speeches, already delivered. In this Chamber such a thing never occurs. Here, when discussions take place, any objections raised are answered directly, and no one thinks of raising them a second time once they have been answered. Our discussions are direct and to the point. Within a few hours we have solved all difficulties, or have agreed to disagree on certain points. That is the difference between the atmosphere of the Commons and that of the Senate. Therefore, to those who ask why the Senate is adjourning, I say that it is because in three months it can well do the work that it is called upon to do—work which in the Commons, under another form of procedure and practice, consumes five months. For these reasons, there being no legislation coming from the Commons, I would move that when this House adjourns to-day it do stand adjourned until the 21st of March at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Some Hon. SENATORS: The 21st?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I had thought of adjourning to the 17th, but my right honourable friend felt so much aggrieved at being called back on St. Patrick's Day that out of consideration for his feelings I will move that we adjourn to Monday, the 21st of March.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: St. Patrick wins, and I take the blame.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Monday is the 23rd.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Keep on going.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. J. A. CALDER: Honourable members, I rise, not to speak to the motion, but to say that since yesterday, and again since the statement made to-day, I have been speaking to one of our members about the advisability of the Senate having a special committee each session endeavour to select two or three subjects which might be dealt with by this body and would provide some work for it to do. This member said he had often thought of moving for a committee to deal with some particular subject, but had always hesitated to do so. Having regard to the personnel of the Senate and the experience of its members in the public life and business life of this country, it seems to me that each session we could very profitably deal with two or three outstanding problems which have no political aspect whatsoever, but in which the public generally are very much interested.

I would cite as an illustration of what I mean the deliberations of our Committee on Tourist Traffic. That committee did good work in dealing with a very important subject, and I think the results of its labours are evident throughout Canada to-day.

A subject that I have in mind at the present time is reforestation. How much do our people know of what has been done, what is being done and what should be done in the way of reforestation in this country? I confess that I know little about it myself, though I should like to be informed. The only way I could become familiar with it would be by a prolonged search, I do not know where, or by the report of a committee which went into the subject from top to bottom. We all know the importance of this subject: we all know what is happening in Canada in the slashing of our forests, and when we look forward thirty, forty or fifty years we know what is likely to be the result unless something is done to prevent it. I mention that merely as an illustration.

I quite agree with the honourable leader of the Government that under existing conditions there must necessarily be a period during the early part of the session when we simply cannot have work to do in this House; but it seems to me that this House, after the first adjournment or so, could very profitably take up some large public question or questions in which all the people of Canada are interested, and which have no political aspect at all.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: My suggestion would be that we should have a small committee, not exceeding seven in number, which would meet at the beginning of each session to select the topics to be considered by the