

the House adjourned the first time after the opening of the Session we had from the leader of the House a distinct pledge that no more adjournments would be asked for this side of Easter, and that the House would then be in a position to rise before Easter. I know that circumstances have occurred with regard to the hon. gentleman himself which I, in common with others, regret, which caused his absence, but having returned to us it is the more incumbent on him to economise all the time that we can and waste none. I was here two day before the opening of the Session and have been here ever since, though I have business that I could attend to if I could only be at home. I am not going to allow anything of this kind to weigh with me at all. Let us have no adjournment whatever, except for the Easter holidays, and then let it be of the smallest possible dimensions.

HON. MR. PROWSE—Before taking a seat in this Chamber, and before receiving my appointment to the Senate, I was led to believe that the hon. gentlemen composing this body were gentlemen who were imbued with a high sense of the important position they occupy; that they are not responsible like gentlemen who occupy seats in another place—not directly responsible to the people—but were chosen as men who would be responsible to a higher authority, the best interests of their country and their own consciences. Since coming here I have been impressed with the idea that the deliberations of this hon. House are not meeting the expectations of the people, and I am to some extent disappointed. My experience since I came to the Senate has been that whenever any important question was proposed which would be worthy of consideration in this Chamber for a week, it was passed over in a few minutes. I refer to two of those in particular—one, the question introduced by the hon. gentleman from Calgary in reference to immigration, which is one of the most important questions that could be considered by this Chamber or by any other body, in the present condition of the Dominion. It was passed over with one or two speeches. Then there was the very important question, perhaps not second to the first one in importance, introduced by the hon. gentleman from Manitoba (Mr. Boulton) in reference to Imperial Feder-

ation, a question on which I thought the matured minds of the older senators in this House would have spent some time in expressing their views fully; yet it was passed over, apparently with no other object than to adjourn the House and have as few speeches as possible. I find also that when an hon. member rises in his place to address the House he is very often interrupted by conversations and interjections which render it very unpleasant for him to proceed with the remarks he has to make. When this Dominion was first confederated we never heard a word about doing away with the Senate. The constitution was framed by delegates appointed for that purpose and it was confirmed by every Province in the Dominion, and that constitution provided that we should have a House of Commons and a Senate, and the sentiment was never expressed that we could do without an Upper Chamber. But what do we find to-day? We find an agitation throughout the country in favor of doing away with the Senate altogether, and in some quarters in favor of an elective Senate. What are the causes? I maintain it is due to the fact that members of this House have not shown themselves equal to the responsibilities imposed upon them.

SOME HON. GENTLEMEN—No! No! No!

HON. MR. PROWSE—That is, in my humble opinion the cause, and if this Chamber gets into disrepute with the people of the Provinces the senators themselves are alone responsible for it. I shall feel it my duty, when the usefulness of this Chamber is gone, to be prepared to vote for its abolition. But I contend that its usefulness is not gone. I contend that it is one of the best guarantees we have against hasty legislation in another place, and if hon. gentlemen will only apply themselves to the duties devolving upon them as senators they will make of this Chamber an institution in which the people throughout the Dominion will have full confidence. I understand that my hon. friend from Alberton (Mr. Howlan) has a question to bring before this House which demands most careful consideration, I might almost say it is whether Prince Edward Island really belongs to this Confederation or not—whether the terms of Union which were promised us some seven-