

motion. When Hon. Joseph Howe, in 1870, declared, after visiting the country during the winter, that he was not in favor of its acquisition by Canada, he never anticipated that an interprovincial trade between Manitoba and the North-West and the eastern Provinces would be built up to the amount of very many millions annually, and that there would be a Province independent as to the management of its own affairs, and there would be in so few years a prosperous and contented community.

Mr. EDGAR. I think this is not an unreasonable hour to move the adjournment of the debate. Two or three hours ago it was understood to be arranged that the division should be taken, but as we have been kept here hour after hour since, and as there are several members on both sides of the House who wish to speak—at all events, there are on this side—I move the adjournment of the debate.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is true the discussion has been a little protracted; but it will be remembered that last evening, when the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) had spoken for an hour and a-half, he and his friends wished an adjournment, and this was agreed to, on the understanding that we would have a vote this evening. That was the understanding.

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman is quite correct in saying that last evening it was agreed that the vote should be taken this evening. But the hon. gentleman must admit that members on this side of the House endeavored to bring the debate to a close at a much earlier hour than this. The hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Royal) took the floor at about 12, stating that he would not speak more than one hour. Upon that understanding, several of our friends who were ready and anxious to speak agreed not to speak. The understanding, so far as made, has not been carried out; and the hon. gentleman having extended his remarks to almost four hours, it is nothing but reasonable that an opportunity should be given to hon. members on this side to reply to him, especially after his statement, in the course of his speech, that he would be severe on the Opposition.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. When I came into the House, half an hour ago, several hon. gentlemen opposite were calling "question."

Mr. TROW. I have always understood that it is the part of gentlemen to adhere strictly to their word and agreement. I, for one, would sacrifice all I am worth in this world to adhere strictly to my word. Hon. gentlemen on this side yielded rather reluctantly to my wishes to make this arrangement, and when I mentioned it to the whip of hon. gentlemen opposite and the Minister of Public Works, the arrangement was made on the express condition that the hon. member for Provencher would not occupy more than three-quarters of an hour or so.

Mr. WOODWORTH. Last evening, when this agreement was made, the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Edgar) was not here, and it was solemnly agreed that we should have a vote to-night, at the instance of the hon. member for West Huron, who implored the House that we should adjourn at a certain hour last evening. Two hours ago the hon. member for South Huron was crying out "adjourn," and two hours ago the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) was calling out "question" and "divide." Well, I had prepared notes of a speech of some length, but owing to the length of the Session and the amount of work before us, I had agreed not to say anything upon this question, in order that we might take a vote to-night. These hon. gentlemen who entered into this agreement are now asking for an adjournment without having a vote.

Mr. VAIL. We all admit that there was an agreement made last night, that under certain circumstances a vote should be taken to-night. A second agreement was made

Mr. ROYAL.

to-night, and I think it was rather unfair, after entering into that agreement, that the hon. member for Provencher should have been allowed to speak three hours in making the last speech of the debate. I say, therefore, the second agreement has been broken, as the hon. member for Provencher has spoken two or three hours longer than he agreed.

Mr. McCALLUM. We have no objection to sit here and listen to the hon. member for Ontario, if he wishes to speak.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would just say that as the matter was arranged, so far as it could be arranged, between the Minister of Public Works and myself, I will state the circumstances, from my recollection of them, and the hon. gentleman can correct me if I am wrong. Yesterday night, when the hon. member for West Huron had spoken for some little time, I suggested an adjournment, and the Minister of Public Works, after some demur, agreed to consent to the suggestion that we should close the debate to-night. I called his attention to the great length of the speech delivered by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, and I asked that he would guarantee that the speeches should not run to such a length on his side. The hon. gentleman will recollect that. Now, we have been seven hours, since 8 o'clock, and our side occupied 1½ hours, to the best of my recollection. Still, I would say to my hon. friends, that under all the circumstances we had better perhaps consent to a vote.

Mr. McMULLEN. With reference to what has been said by the hon. member for King's, N. S. (Mr. Woodworth), I would just say that we understood that the hon. gentleman then addressing the House would not take up more than an hour, or a little more. We listened to him patiently, and I gave way, though I fully intended to make a few remarks. I think it is unfair that the hon. gentleman should have taken the entire evening; that it was certainly conveyed to him in some way that he should only occupy about an hour.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I wish to make a remark in answer to what has been said by the hon. member for South Perth. I may say that when I met the hon. gentleman in the lobby, he said that it appeared that it was the wish of both sides to come to an understanding about closing the debate; that after the hon. member for Bothwell, who was then speaking, had closed, we might take a vote. I observed to him that the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Royal) wished to make some remarks, in answer to the hon. gentleman, and that as the debate had been begun by the motion of the hon. member for West-Durham, on the Opposition side, and as an hon. member had answered on our side, and so on alternately, until the hon. member for Bothwell spoke, if the hon. member for Provencher made his speech, that would make an even number on both sides. The hon. gentleman said: Well, I think so; but how long will he speak. I said: I understood an hour or an hour and a-quarter. That is the statement I have to make in answer to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. WATSON. In justice to myself, coming from Manitoba, and representing the county nearest to the disaffected district, I intended to speak on this question; but when the whip on this side, Mr. Trow, told me, about a quarter to one o'clock, that there had been arrangements made to close, and that Mr. Royal would get through at one o'clock, I reluctantly gave way, knowing that the members wanted to get home, and knowing that the arguments on this side had not been answered, and that up to that time the hon. member for Provencher had said nothing which I wished to reply to. The hon. gentleman has spent two hours and a quarter longer in making statements which I would have liked to reply to; but as I was present last night when the understanding was arrived at, that there should be short