

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said though it was perhaps a little irregular at this time, that he would like to know if the papers brought down would contain merely the despatches from the Imperial Government without those to which they were replies, or was it the intention to lay all the despatches before the House.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the hon. gentleman would see when the papers were brought down that they contained despatches both from this country to England and from England to this country; both the despatches sent and the replies to them. These despatches were very important, of the greatest interest, and the government were of opinion that the House could not satisfactorily discuss some of the paragraphs of the Speech they had just heard till they had an opportunity of reading them all over. He therefore moved that the Speech be taken into consideration on Monday next. (*Hear, hear.*)

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE regretted that the hon. gentleman should think it necessary to postpone the consideration of the address for such a length of time.

If these papers were to be presented to the House in a few minutes, nearly all the members would find time to look over their contents before tomorrow. It was a serious matter to have the members of this House coming together so often during the course of one year, and that now they would have this unnecessary adjournment till Monday (*hear, hear*) without any cause as far as he could see.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said these papers were of considerable length, but possibly by a great act of labour they might be read by tomorrow. He doubted very much, however, whether they could be considered properly. On that ground he asked that the consideration of the Speech be left over until Monday. (*Hear, hear.*)

The motion was then agreed to.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then made the usual formal motion with regard to Select Committees; he also moved the usual declaration with regard to bribery, corruption, and tampering with the independence of Parliament, which declares each and all of these to be crimes and misdemeanours.

At several points in the declaration he was loudly cheered by the Opposition.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then moved that when the House adjourns, it do stand adjourned until Monday next, at three o'clock.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE called attention to the fact that, in the Speech from the Throne, it was said that the evidence obtained under the Commission appointed by the Government to enquire into the Pacific charges would be laid before Parliament, and that had not yet been done. It was not amongst the papers sent down by message, and if it were necessary the other despatches should be

read by members, surely it was necessary that the papers to which he referred should also be read before the House again met. He desired to know whether those papers were printed.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said they were printed, and he had not laid them on the table because he had cut the string which bound them without observing that they were addressed to Mr. Speaker. He did not like to present the documents in that condition. It, however, was printed and would be distributed that evening. He intended to get the paper re-addressed, but if he might be permitted to present it in the mutilated form, he had decided he would do so. (*Cries of Yes, and Hear, Hear.*)

He then laid the report of the Commissioners on the table.

The motion with regard to the adjournment of the House was then carried.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then moved the adjournment of the House, which was carried at 4 p.m.

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REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSIONERS

To the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Temple, Earl of Dufferin, Viscount and Baron Clandeboye, of Clandeboye, in the County of Down, in the peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron Dufferin, and Clandeboye, and Ballyeidy and Killeleagh, in the County of Down, in the peerage of Ireland, and a baronet Knight of the most illustrious order of St. Patrick, and Knight Commander of the Most Honourable order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

May it please Your Excellency,—

The undersigned Commissioners, appointed by Royal Commission addressed to them under the Great Seal of Canada, bearing date the 14th day of August A.D. 1873, have the honour to report—

(1) That they met at Ottawa on the 18th day of August last, for the purpose of making preparations for the discharge of the duty imposed on them by the Commission.

(2) The course of proceedings was then settled, and the 4th day of September last was appointed for entering upon the examination of witnesses.

(3) The Commissioners, on undertaking the enquiry they were enjoined to make, had hoped that the entire conduct of it would not have been left in their hands; that the Hon. Mr. Huntington, or some one who believed that the charges specified in the Commission could be established by evidence would have conducted the enquiry before them, and they had resolved in such event not only to accept such aid in the investigation, but to allow to the promoter at least the same latitude in the mode of proceeding as the recognized Courts of Justice allowed in ordinary judicial investigations, and