

meeting on the 9th of July, we meet on Wednesday, the 4th of July, at, say, three o'clock in the afternoon, we shall have a reasonable amount of rest and shall not be leaving ourselves open to criticism. There is another thing which must also be borne in mind: when we meet on Monday, gentlemen who live at any distance have three alternatives—either to be late, to come here on Saturday, or to travel on Sunday; and the members being, as a rule, religious men, do not wish to travel on Sunday. Consequently I think that when we have a long adjournment Wednesday is the proper day to resume. I speak without any personal feeling in this matter, because I am not proposing to go home.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: A number of honourable gentlemen who left this afternoon asked me to suggest to the honourable leader of this House that in making his motion he should change the date of the meeting to Tuesday. I shall not express my own views in regard to this matter at all.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: In view of the remarks of my honourable friend from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Power) I do not see how we can extend the time to Tuesday.

Hon. Mr. McSWEENEY: I think you had better make it the 12th of July. That would suit a good many of us.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Well, we want to be here for the celebration. You will have two days here to prepare for it.

The motion was agreed to.

IRREGULAR QUESTIONS.

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I desire to draw the attention of the House to a lack or lapse in the Orders of the Day. I understand that a senator yesterday gave notice of two questions, very important and very interesting to the general public. On reading over the Orders of the Day, I find that the two questions have been suppressed; there is not one word about them. Where the power of suppression lies is a question that I should like to have answered—that the people of this country would like to have answered. Who has the power to suppress free speech, or to refuse to give to the representatives of the people information respecting questions of administration. Honourable gentlemen, it is stated in the House of Commons, in the press, and throughout the country that we

are engaged in the present war in order that democracy may prevail over autocracy and the suppression of human rights; but here in this Senate we find the most outrageous suppression of the right of demanding from the Government information to which the country is entitled. Has the Government undertaken to suppress those questions, or what power in this Senate has suppressed them? Is it the Clerk at the Table?

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: I do not desire to interfere with the honourable gentleman who is addressing the House, but I would like to ask if he is in order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Do not be so sharp. I am perfectly in order. This is before the Orders of the Day, and I am rising to the highest question of privilege affecting the representatives of the people.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Order. I believe that the honourable gentleman ought to confine his remarks to asking an explanation from the proper authorities as to why his inquiries were not printed. Then he may make a motion if he so desires.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Well, that is what I am endeavouring to do; I am trying to the best of my ability to get an explanation.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: But you have not the right to make a speech.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I am not making a speech. I am asking for information. Was it His Honour the Speaker who suppressed these questions? Was it the leader of the Government? Who was it?

The Hon. the SPEAKER: If the honourable gentleman will wait a moment, I will tell him.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: That is the information I want.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable gentlemen, after the honourable gentleman for Victoria (Hon. Mr. Cloran) gave notice of his inquiries yesterday, and I heard the reading of those inquiries, one of the clerks at the Table called my attention to this fact—

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: One of the clerks!

The Hon. the SPEAKER: that an inquiry should not contain any statements of fact. The object of an inquiry should be to ascertain if something can be done, but not to provide the House with facts. I advised the clerk to see the honourable member for Victoria and request him to correct