

HON. MR. MILLER—It is the same Bill that was passed last year.

HON. MR. POWER—Yes; but there is a very serious principle involved.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The same Bill has been already passed by this House, and it is a matter of some exigence that this one should be got through immediately.

HON. MR. MILLER—I presume it is the intention of the Government to have it receive the Royal Assent as soon as possible?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Certainly, and any explanation that may be required can be given as usual, on the second reading of the Bill, and I shall be prepared to make the explanation to-morrow.

HON. MR. MILLER—The fact of the matter is, the provisions made by the Bill are now being carried out by the Government on their own authority, and they require the present Act to legalize their procedure. I hope the Bill will be put through as speedily as possible, and that the Royal Assent will be given to it at once, when it is put through.

HON. MR. POWER—The reason given by the hon. gentleman I think rather cuts the ground from under his own feet, for, if I understand the hon. gentleman, he says that the Government are now acting as though the Bill had been passed; and if they have been acting in that way for some weeks, I presume they can continue to act in the same way for two or three days longer. I do not think there is anything unreasonable in asking the Bill to stand until Friday.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I did not think there was anything unreasonable in the hon. gentleman having asked that the Bill stand until Friday, because at that time he had not heard the reason for pressing the Bill forward. The fact that the Government are acting provisionally, in consequence of the late period at which Parliament is called together, and the necessity for some action in the premises, it appears to me, is no reason for delaying the intervention of Parliament, which is the proper tribunal for dealing with questions of this

nature. Up to the present, the Government have taken the responsibility of issuing provisional licenses, such as they were authorized by Parliament to issue last year, but of course it is important that the consideration by Parliament of such a measure as this should not be delayed a moment longer than can be avoided. In every respect it appears to me it is a Bill which really ought to be and might be advanced with the shortest possible delay, because the House knows all about it. Every hon. gentleman in the House knows precisely what the Bill is and what it is intended to effect, and everyone knows that it is a measure in the interests of peace and in the best interests of the country.

HON. MR. MILLER—I thought the hon. gentleman was going to ask for a suspension of the rule to put it through at once.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I think if the hon. gentleman from Halifax would reflect a moment that the delay has been caused by our taking an adjournment, he would certainly be disposed to dispense with the rule.

HON. MR. POWER—I was going to say that if this measure was of so urgent a character I do not think the leader of the House was doing his duty in not informing the Senate that it was coming up, for then we should not have had the long adjournment we did have. Of course, if the leader of the House proposes, when the Bill is read the third time, to have the Deputy Governor come down and give his assent to it, there may be a reason for urgency, but if that is not the case I do not see that the delay of a day will make any difference.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend charges me with dereliction of duty. I think I pointed out, on the moving for an adjournment, that this very Bill was coming up, and I voted against the adjournment in consequence.

HON. MR. POWER—I must say there was not much emphasis on the hon. gentleman's remarks on that occasion.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was ordered for second reading to-morrow.

The Senate adjourned at 9:40 p.m.