

I do not think anything has happened in the meantime to vary it. I am quite sure that all my Western friends are au fait. On reading the statement last evening I found that this measure, which is perhaps the most important piece of legislation we may now expect, and which will affect our treasury to a considerable extent, was designed to give help to the Western Provinces. In view of existing conditions, I feel that we must assume responsibility for any action which will alleviate the situation in the West. As this Bill is still being debated in the House of Commons, I would suggest that the Senate adjourn until nine o'clock this evening, so that the Bill, if it reaches us by then, may receive first reading to-night and be ready for second reading to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock.

Before we meet again I shall try to obtain the information my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Haig) has asked for.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Another Bill, which may not have reached honourable members of the Senate in even first-reading form, is Bill 123, an Act respecting the payment of compensation for the taking of certain property for war purposes. I shall ask that this Bill be distributed to the members of the Senate without delay, even though it be in first-reading form, for I think that when it reaches us in its final form it will be altered but little. I see in a marginal note that there may be a slight change in one of the clauses.

It is true that these two measures will come to us somewhat late, but it is the hope of the House of Commons—and I think the hope is shared by a number of honourable members of the Senate—that it may be possible for us to conclude our labours by to-morrow evening. We can of course extend our sittings into next week if we so desire, but if it is no inconvenience to the Senate to deal with these two Bills to-morrow, we shall then have only to await the pleasure of the Commons in sending us the Supply Bill, which is usually the last measure to come to us.

With these few remarks, I suggest that we call it six o'clock.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable senators, the honourable member from Winnipeg South-Centre (Hon. Mr. Haig) has just asked, certainly for the third time if not the fourth or fifth time, about the regulations under the Mobilization Act. I have been trying to find in the Senate Debates the first discussion which occurred here after that Act was passed. It will be recalled that on its passing I took the strongest exception to, and levelled the most definite protest

against, the general authorization provision contained in that Act. It really was not legislation; it was just authority given to the Government to legislate in respect to that most sacred matter, the rights of the subject. I do not recall in precise words the final answer of the leader of the Government, but it certainly was such as to lead everyone to expect that the regulations under the Act would shortly be laid on the Table. He mentioned the following Monday, but I do not think he stated definitely that it would be done on that day.

Subsequently the matter was brought up again. I took part in the discussion, and again a promise to answer the inquiry, and so forth, was made. To-day the most indefinite of all replies has been given, and it is as clear to me as anything can be that the Government has no intention whatever of submitting these regulations to Parliament. I feared that such was the case when the Bill was before us. Evidently this is to be entirely a matter for the secret conclave of the Government. Parliament is to be shut out from all consideration of these regulations, in which, from their very nature, every subject of this country is vitally concerned. If the regulations permit, that Act can be operated in such a way that under it the Government can direct who is to be summoned and who is not. What is in the mind of the Government I do not know.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Has my right honourable friend read the statement of the Minister?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes. There is no indication there of what the regulations are to be. What the intention of the Government is, I do not know. All we know is that we have been promised that after registration is complete, and no doubt after it is sifted, analysed and reported on—which will be I know not when—a call will be made, and then there will be a system of postponement. The "call" means mobilization, or conscription; "postponement" is a new word for exemption. Those words can have no other meaning. This House is entitled to know, and to insist upon knowing before we prorogue, what will be the system of calling, and on what principle or system postponement or exemption will be allowed.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Not necessarily.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, yes. I have never seen anything about which there has been a more evident desire to keep away from unpleasant facts and unpleasant factors