

Parliament must make his personal interest subordinate to his public duties, but still the Government should consult the convenience of some 300 gentlemen and call Parliament together at as early a date in February as possible. Certainly the convenience of these 300 members should be consulted, in preference to that of 13 Cabinet Ministers. Before sitting down, I must also refer to a topic mentioned by my hon. friend, and that is, the promise given by the Premier at the time of Confederation with respect to the selection of Senators. I think my hon. friend has stated correctly the nature of the pledges that were given. Turning to the debates on Confederation we find the Premier himself stating:—"No ministry can in the future do what they have done in Canada before; they cannot with the view of carrying any measure or strengthening party, attempt to overrule the independent opinion of the Upper House by filling it up with a number of their partisans and political supporters." I might quote from other members of the Government to the same effect, but I believe it is unnecessary. Of course I must not be understood as saying a word that can be considered disrespectful to the gentlemen recently appointed, for they are men of ability and position, but at the same time I feel they represent and are taken from a particular political party.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL.—I may say in reply to the hon. gentleman that the short delay that has occurred in calling Parliament together—not more than fifteen or sixteen days—has not been with a view to the convenience of the Government. Certain measures have to be introduced with the British Parliament, and consequently the Canadian Government were obliged to postpone the meeting of the General Legislature for a few days. I am not quite prepared to say just now what those measures are, but I think when they are known the Government will be perfectly justified.

Hon. Mr. MILLER.—I must congratulate the hon. mover of the Address, although not agreeing in all he said, on the able manner in which he discharged the duty devolved upon him, and also this House on the presence among us of a gentleman of his ability and experience. Before referring to the Address, I must add a few remarks to those that have fallen from my hon. friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Christie) respecting the late meeting of Parliament. I cannot but express my regret that in selecting the time for bringing us together this year, that greater regard

has not been had to the wishes and convenience of members, and am a little surprised that no better reason than that offered by the Hon. Postmaster General has been given in justification of the delay. By a resolution adopted elsewhere two or three years ago, I thought it was definitely understood that unless for good reasons to the contrary the Dominion Parliament should be convened not later than the 15th of February in every year. As no such reasons have been given, we may assume from the vague defence of the hon. gentleman they do not exist.

It is not probable that we can rise this Session until some time in June, and thus three hundred gentlemen from all parts of the country, or at any rate, a large majority of them, will be obliged either to remain here to their great loss during the busiest season of the year, or else abandon their legislative duties before the Session is half over. This may be a subject of indifference to ministers, but it is one of deep importance to three-fourths of the members of both branches of Parliament. I cannot see why it should be so, and why Parliament cannot be convened at a more suitable period, earlier in the year, when, in this country, all classes have the most leisure and the least pressing business engagements. How is it, that the United States Congress can meet annually on a given day, and also that the Imperial Parliament meets every year with nearly equal regularity? Have our thirteen ministers more work to accomplish, more important measures to mature, greater preparations to make for the meeting of Parliament than devolves on the statesmen of those great countries? I trust Parliament will take the subject into its consideration and adopt some rule the ministry will be obliged to obey. (Hear, hear.)

The first paragraph of the Address very properly reciprocates the satisfaction and pleasure expressed by His Excellency in meeting the Parliament of Canada for the first time. There can be no doubt that the present prospects of the Dominion in many respects are highly promising, and that in a general way the circumstances are auspicious under which we are now called upon to welcome the distinguished nobleman, Our Gracious Sovereign has lately sent to represent her authority in this country. Coming among us with a high reputation acquired in more than one field of honorable ambition, this eminent personage has already realized in many respects the flattering anticipations we were led to entertain