

gentlemen. It would be a great misfortune if this legislation were brought before this Chamber in the dying hours of the session, and we were forced to consider it without having sufficient time to deliberate upon it, as we should do in the interests of the country and with due consideration for the dignity of this Chamber. Unfortunately on other occasions we have had to complain of the manner in which important legislation has been brought to this Chamber in the dying hours of the session, when it was not possible to give it the consideration it deserved and which the country had a right to expect. There is, I think, on the file of Bills in this House at the present time Bill 67, which deals with the Customs Act. It is a Bill which may cause a good deal of discussion. Then, there are one or two committees dealing with questions of interest and importance. I fear that they may not proceed with their work during the adjournment, owing to the desire of certain honourable gentlemen to go away. I draw the attention of the honourable leader of the Government to these matters in the hope that we may have sufficient time to give proper consideration to them when they come up.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: My honourable friend's remarks sound very familiar. When I occupied the position which my honourable friend now occupies I used annually to indulge in similar expressions; indeed, they are a kind of hardy perennial. However, my honourable friend is only doing his duty. He speaks of morning and Saturday sittings being an indication that the end of the Session is approaching; but I would not venture that prediction. They indicate rather that the Government is desirous of giving the Commons more time for the transaction of public business. I have mentioned to the Prime Minister that our Order Paper was practically cleared up, and that the disposition of the Senate was to adjourn for a couple of weeks, and I do not anticipate that any public business will be ready for us before we resume. The Conscription Bill is now under consideration, and by the time it has passed the second reading and the committee and other stages we shall probably have resumed our work in this Chamber. The only other Bill of importance that is before the Commons is the consolidation of the Railway Act. That, I believe, has just left the committee, and will soon be before the House, when the Committee of the Whole will deal with it. Honourable gentlemen

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.

can understand that it will take some time to dispose of a Bill of that nature. I know of nothing else of importance that could come before the Senate before the expiration of a fortnight. We have been holding over the Customs Bill pending the bringing down of certain information which my honourable friend from Portage la Prairie (Hon. Mr. Watson) has asked for. It is a very brief Bill and should be disposed of in a very short time. It is simply a declaration of what the law has been since Confederation. A judicial interpretation of it may afterwards be necessary. I think therefore the public business will not suffer if we adjourn.

Hon. Mr. POWER: As justification of the proposed long adjournment the leader of the Government tells us that in the past we have had similar adjournments which the Opposition has sometimes opposed. When he was the leader of the Opposition he made it a point to speak, I presume in a more or less perfunctory way, against such adjournments. I think the honourable gentleman will have some difficulty in discovering a precedent for the present action. Of late years we have adopted the practice of having long adjournments in the early part of the session, before important business has come before the Senate, and when business has not been anticipated within a short time; but the circumstances are different in this case. We are, I hope, at any rate within a month of the end of the Session, and the honourable gentleman proposes to devote more than half of that time to an adjournment. I do not think that is a businesslike proposition, or one which should commend itself to the members of this House as business men. I quite concur in what has been said by the honourable the leader of the Opposition; and I say further that we should have some regard for the reputation of this House. There appears to be a feeling prevalent amongst people outside that the Senate just meets and then adjourns, and that what it does is hardly appreciable and of no value. I do not think that we should do anything to encourage that feeling. By adjourning at this time we are doing what is calculated to lower the Senate in the estimation of the public. It seems to me that it will be time enough to adjourn, if prorogation is not close at hand, when the business before the Senate has been completed and there is nothing coming up from the committees. I submit to honourable gentlemen that if, instead of