

would be impossible for the members of the Government to be in their seats, and in their absence they did not know what might be brought before the House. The request he had made on behalf of the Government was reasonable, and the usual one adopted, and he thought it might be complied with.

Mr. CONNELL acquiesced in the request of the Attorney General, for although the local business of the country might be gone on with, yet it was customary to adjourn if the Government were not in a position to carry on the general business. He thought the time asked should be granted.

Mr. McCLELLAN did not wish to throw any obstacles in the way of the Government, but he was of the opinion that matters not connected with the Government might be carried on by the House, and this was the on y object he had in view in offering his remarks.

Mr. GILBERT had important Bills to bring in, yet if circumstances were such that the Government were compelled to ask for an adjournment, common courtesy required that it should be granted.

Mr. WETMORE had not spoken with a view to oppose the Government, but, knowing that a large number of local Bills had to be passed, he thought that, as the Government were not connected with, nor affected by them, might be taken up in committee and got through with.

(On motion of Mr. NEEDHAM, the House then adjourned till to-morrow at 3 o'clock P. M.)

J. MARCH.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10.

After the Journals were read, the House adjourned until half-past two to-morrow, at the request of Hon. Mr. Smith, who stated that the Government had tendered their resignations to His Excellency, but the acceptance had not been received or the correspondence closed.

T. P. D.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11.

The House met pursuant to adjournment at half-past two P. M.

Mr. KERR moved the House into Committee of the Whole on a Bill to incorporate the Northern Bank.

Hon. Mr. SMITH then rose and said, that he had hoped to have been ready to give the reasons why the Government had tendered their resignations, but regretted he was not yet in a position to do so. He had just received a note from the Governor saying that he could not give a reply to them till four or five o'clock, and as under these circumstances it was usual to adjourn from day to day, he was compelled again to ask the indulgence of the House.

Mr. KERR thought that local matters could be gone on with without affecting the position of the Government. If he thought that anything could arise to suffer them, he would advise the House to adjourn. It would probably be three or four days before they would be able to take up any business of general interest, but in the meantime he should see the local business transacted.

Mr. FISHER said they should remem-

ber that the request for adjournment came from the Government, and though he felt the necessity of proceeding with the local business, yet he could not feel it duty to proceed against their motion. He did not look for the effect the going on might have on the past or present, but on the future, and as it was usual to adjourn, he was in favor of allowing the Government time to conclude their correspondence.

Mr. BOYD said, as the House had heard from the Attorney General that the Governor had not yet returned an answer to their resignation, it was their duty to adjourn in compliance with the request of the Government.

Mr. SUTTON could see no reasonable objection to the House proceeding with local business whilst the correspondence between the Government and the Governor was pending.

Hon. Mr. SMITH reiterated that it was usual to adjourn the House from day to day under such circumstances as the Government were now placed, but it was in the hands of the House to adjourn or go on, as they saw fit.

Mr. GILBERT said this Province was not a Crown Colony, but was ruled by a Government responsible to the people, and exigencies having arisen to cause the Government to tender their resignation, and a reply to the same not having been yet received, he thought the House must adjourn in compliance with the request of the Attorney General. The difficulty would be to distinguish between general and local business, or where the line should be drawn. Under responsible and departmental Government all business transacted by this House must be considered as affecting the general interests of the Province, and although business might be retarded for a few days by the adjournment, yet a precedent must be established that the Government must be in a working condition for the business to be constitutional, and he should, therefore, support the motion for adjournment.

Mr. THOMPSON said they knew what the rules of the British Government were on this point, and though time was lost, yet it enabled the members to know exactly how matters stood. He wanted to go on constitutionally, manly and fairly, and to see the principles established carried out. A change was made in our Constitution about fifteen years ago, by those who he believed were seeking office, yet having now a responsible Government, or having had it up to within the past few days, he thought the House should adjourn, or they would be like a balloon with the cords cut, and go up God knows where. To proceed constitutionally required time, and as the Attorney General has asked for an adjournment they should do so and save the trouble and bother that would otherwise arise. The Hon. member for York (Mr. Fisher) was one of the framers of the plan of departmental Government, and he did not want to see him like a child with a card house, up foot and knock down all his work. He was little of a politician, and had taken up very little of the time of the House, yet he felt that as he was about the time of the adjournment, he felt it his duty to say a few words. He was not given to talking, but rather to listening,

and had only spoken now to jog the memory of the hon. member for York, as they all knew the least drop was sometimes sufficient to stimulate.

Mr. ANGLIN said it was always the case under circumstances like the present to adjourn from day to day. He did not like this lounging about, not at work, yet he believed that a number of hon. members had been hard at work during the past few days, and they looked as though they had heavy care upon their minds. The Government might be considered in a moribund condition, and as the hon. member, the late head of the Opposition, but who now, he supposed, he must address as the hon. member for York, would naturally be very busy, he thought time should be given these forming a new administration to mature their plans, and as under the circumstances it could not be expected that the members of the moribund Government, as well as the leading members of the Opposition, would be able to be in their seats, there would be very few to discuss the questions that came before them, if they should decide to go on with Bills of a local character. Under such circumstances, matters might be brought before the House of great importance, and carried without the knowledge of many of the members. The hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Thompson) had spoken of Responsible Government as a balloon with its cords cut, and gone off, no one knows where, but he rather regarded it as gone up and collapsed.

Hon. Mr. HATHEWAY said the Provincial Secretary was away attending the supposed death-bed of his father, and as soon as the memorandum had been sent to and received from him, the Government had laid their resignations before the Governor. Time must be given to prepare the reply, and the Government was not to blame for any delay. His hon. friend from Northumberland (Mr. Kerr) had never been a member of a Government. If he had, he would not find it so very comfortable.

Mr. WILMOT said the delay was first charged to the Opposition, and then to the Government. He had been in many Governments, and had resigned three times. The last time it took from January till April to get a reply accepting it, and now the question was, how long would it take by the rule of proportion to get a reply to the resignation of eight men? He did not understand his hon. colleague's (Mr. Anglin) reference to the time required by what he had termed the "late Opposition," but he could assure his hon. friend and the House that, so far as he was concerned, he was ready to go on with the business.

Mr. L. P. W. DESBRISAY would endorse the sentiments of the hon. member for St. John's (Mr. Wilmot), and further state that there was no question of "courtesy" to the Opposition. They do not ask for the "courtesy" of time to be granted to mature plans, and did not want it. He came here an independent member, and when it was remembered that he came to support the Government, and that the Government had failed to introduce measures for the good of the country, it was not to be surprised that he should leave their ranks. And now that they found they cannot go on with the business, they wanted to throw the responsibility off their own shoulders and place it on the Opposition. It is through the business that the Government can be preserved.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said the country