

opinions on record. (Hear, hear.) I think that is going a little too far, and it is as a friend of the Administration that I express that opinion.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—We do not require your advice.

MR. POWELL—The hon. gentleman may accept it or not, as he pleases.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—I do not accept it.

MR. POWELL—Then he may take the other alternative. I think the House and the country have extended an enormous degree of consideration to this Government, but I tell the hon. gentlemen that if they continue the course they are now pursuing, a reaction will take place in the House and the country. (Hear, hear.) I hope that this House is not to drop down into being the mere echo of the Executive—so that we shall not have opinions of our own at all, or be allowed to offer any advice whatever to the Executive. If the hon. gentleman accepts these remarks in a hostile spirit, he may do so. All I can say is that I do not mean them to be so received. But I consider the course taken by the Government this afternoon is a most extraordinary one. The reason assigned is, that hon. gentlemen opposite have been offering a factious opposition, and that they intend to continue it by moving motion after motion. But even if they do, I ask, can that involve above a couple of weeks more of discussion? And I say that it is not for the credit or the character of the Government, that to shorten the discussion they should take such a course as this. I believe they have undertaken the great work they have in hand in a most patriotic spirit. I believe that my hon. friend—though he rejects my advice—is animated in the course he is taking by a purely patriotic spirit. But, while I believe that, I think he ought to accord to me the right of expressing my opinion as to the mode in which this debate should be conducted. I do not know whether the friends of the Administration are to be gagged as well as its opponents—(laughter)—whether it is intended that we shall all be prevented from expressing our views. But I do trust the leader of the Government will withdraw this motion—(hear, hear)—which is unworthy of him, when he has in hand this grand and magnificent project. He has all the advantages he can wish on his side, and I would advise him to avail himself of those advantages, and not to give—by pursuing a course

that is certainly unusual, extraordinary, and unprecedented—the enemies of this great scheme the opportunity of saying that it was forced down the throats of this Legislature and of the people of this country. (Hear, hear.) I believe that he has the people at his back—that they endorse his scheme—that they are fully with him—and that the large majority of this House truly represent the feelings and wishes of the people in endorsing the scheme. (Hear, hear.) I say, therefore, that he can well afford to be magnanimous and liberal to the Opposition—who are feeble in numbers, though energetic in the stand they take—and that he can carry out this scheme without having to call to his aid the technical rules of the House. (Hear, hear.)

HON. J. H. CAMERON—I desire to inquire whether the motion for the “previous question” made by the Government, if carried, will throw any impediment in the way of the resolution of which I have given notice? Of course I know that it can be moved; but if a discussion arises upon it, I am afraid we shall not reach a vote upon it until the session is closed. I hope the word of promise is not to be kept to the ear and broken to the hope.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—I have no desire to choke off the honorable gentleman’s resolution in any way. He will have an opportunity of moving and pressing his motion after the resolutions have been adopted.

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—But it is quite clear that the moving of the previous question shuts off all amendments.

HON. J. H. CAMERON—My motion is not proposed as an amendment. I propose to move it after a decision has been come to on the question now before the House. It is for the purpose of having an expression of the people’s will upon the Address, before it is sent to the Imperial authorities.

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—Well, that is an amendment, but I will not argue the point just now.

MR. M. C. CAMERON—I do not know that I can claim, like my honorable friend from Carleton (Mr. POWELL), to be a friend of the Government, and so any advice that I may offer will not be considered as coming from a warm friend of theirs; but I apprehend that I do entertain that kind of friendly feeling for the Hon. Attorney General West that would induce me to advise him most strongly against the course he has been induced to adopt, had my advice been asked. I can scarcely think that that honorable