

Government would, in the first instance, lay their case before the House, and through the press before the country, and then allow a reasonable time for the country to judge of the case as presented by the Government.

The Hon. President of the Council also said :—

Although the Hon. Atty. Gen. had proposed that the discussion should continue day after day, he had not suggested for a moment that the vote should be hurried on; the debate at any period might be adjourned, if deemed necessary, to allow time for the expression of public opinion. There were 130 members, and almost every member would desire to speak on the question; and he thought clearly the proper course was to devote every day, after half-past seven, to the discussion, to allow all members on both sides to state their views, that they might go to the country and be fully considered.

This, then, was the manner in which the Government brought the proposition before the House—the matter was to be discussed without hurry, and the whole of the 130 members on the floor of the House were to be allowed to express their opinions fully, and their views were to go to the country to be fully weighed and considered. After that we heard the Hon. Atty. Gen. West saying :—

Of course it was competent to the House to vote against the Address as a whole, or to adopt amendments to it; but, if they did so, it would then be for the Government to consider whether they would press the scheme further on the attention of the House.

Still further, the Hon. Atty. Gen. West said :—

All amendments might be moved to that one resolution. It would be the same thing, in fact, as to move them upon each resolution separately. This, Mr. SPEAKER, occurred during the preliminary discussion.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—That is right.

HON. MR. HOLTON—But you back out of it now.

HON. ATTY. GEN. CARTIER—Why did you not move?

HON. MR. DORION—I was saying that this occurred in the preliminary discussion which took place on the floor of the House when the Hon. Atty. Gen. West himself brought in the resolution upon which the discussion of this measure should be based. We proposed that, as the best protection for the minority, we should go into Committee of the Whole; but the Hon.

Atty. Gen. West said that we should have all the advantages, and more, too, than if we went into committee. He promised that we should be allowed to express our views as often as we pleased, while we would have the benefit of greater order being kept, with the Speaker in the chair, than would be possible in Committee of the Whole. We relied upon this agreement being kept, and believed that not only would members be allowed to express their views without check, but that the public would have time to hold meetings and petition. We therefore consented at once to the eight days' adjournment, which was suggested by the honorable member for Peel (Hon. J. E. CAMERON), and which was considered by all a most reasonable proposition. Well, the Government took eight days to send their speeches to the country, and four days after the debate was resumed, we find the honorable member for Montreal Centre (Hon. Mr. ROSE) putting a notice on the paper to do away with the solemn agreement which was entered into on the floor of Parliament between the honorable members on the ministerial side and the minority in opposition. (Hear, hear.) The honorable gentlemen on the Treasury benches closed the exposition of their case on the 8th of February. On the 16th the debate was resumed, and on the 21st—Saturday and Sunday intervening—just two nights' debating having taken place in the meantime—the honorable member for Montreal Centre went to every member to get a round robin signed for the purpose of breaking a solemn agreement, which had been entered into in good faith, between the Government and the minority. (Hear, hear.) Having failed, after two nights' discussion, to carry the resolution of which he had given notice—after, I say, the honorable member for Montreal Centre had been foiled in his attempt to carry that motion—the Hon. Atty. Gen. West put a notice on the paper to the same effect, thereby assuming the responsibility of all that had been done in this respect by the honorable member for Montreal Centre. And in the absence of the Hon. Atty. Gen. West, the Hon. Atty. Gen. East moved that resolution for breaking the agreement which he and his colleagues had solemnly entered into. (Hear, hear.) And, sir, not only did they attempt to break this agreement, so as to prevent discussion on the part of the minority, and to stifle the expression of public opinion, which was