

resignations to the Prime Minister, which were submitted to the Governor General and accepted by His Excellency. The resignations which have thus been accepted are those of the Hon. Geo. E. Foster, Minister of Finance; Hon. John Haggart, Minister of Railways and Canals; Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Minister of Justice; Hon. W. B. Ives, Minister of Trade and Commerce; Hon. A. R. Dickey, Minister of Militia and Defence; Hon. W. H. Montague, Minister of Agriculture, and Hon. John F. Wood, Controller of Customs. At the next meeting of the House I hope to be in a position to state definitely what course the government has taken or intends to take under the circumstances, and considering the gravity of the situation I have to ask that when the House adjourns to-night it stand adjourned until to-morrow at eight o'clock. It is not usual, I believe, upon occasions of this kind to make explanations at any length until the action of the government, whatever it may be, has been taken in reference to the filling of vacancies, or the organization and formation of a new government. I shall act on this occasion in accordance with English precedent. I have simply to say, in addition to the remarks which I have already made, that I believe in another place one of the gentlemen who retired from the Cabinet has made a statement giving his reasons therefor. I have not yet had an opportunity of reading it, but casually heard some of it, and am not in a position to discuss the subject to-night. I must, therefore, ask the indulgence of the House for at least 24 hours, when I shall be in a much better position to deal with that statement as it deserves. In making this request, I have no desire to shirk any of the responsibilities which devolve upon the head of the government in dealing with the matters referred to in the Speech from the Throne. As I have said, I have not seen the statement to which I have referred, nor was that courtesy extended to me, as the head of the government, of handing me a copy of it, in order that it might be dealt with properly. I, therefore, ask the House to permit me to postpone the matter until it appears in the press to-morrow, when I can deal with it on its merits. If my ears did not deceive me in what I heard of it, I can only say that it was uncalled for, that it was undignified, that it was unfair to the head

of the government, for the time being. To say that much is, I think, saying very little. I leave that to the gentleman who thought proper to make the statement, and if it satisfies him and his friends, I can only appeal to the judgment of the country, in defence of the course which I have taken. I shall add this, however—the declaration that I made in this House just before its prorogation last year in reference to the future policy of the government upon the great question which is agitating the people of this country, will be, so far as I am concerned and so far as I can influence, carried out to the letter. I have yet to learn that it is my duty as a public man to do otherwise. Having enunciated a principle, firmly believing as I did, and as I supposed all my colleagues did, that it was a sound principle—that it was but doing justice to a portion of this Dominion and maintaining the provisions of the constitution, and giving to a portion of Her Majesty's subjects who have been deprived of their rights that which the constitution and the highest court of the realm stated that they were entitled to—I feel it my duty, as far as in my power lies, to see that the remedy is given. It is to me a subject of deep regret that any difference of opinion should prevail among gentlemen who had formed a deliberate opinion upon a course which, I regret to say, led one of my colleagues in whom I had the most unbounded confidence and respect to leave the government last year, because we did not act at that time, and because we asked for delay in order to give the province whose autonomy it is asserted will be interfered with, time at least to consider the grave question with which they and which we had to deal. We were accused of having no other desire but to so put off and delay the question that it might be ultimately defeated (to use a familiar but not very elegant expression) by some fluke. Whether that was the intention of those who have taken a different course from the gentlemen who have remained in the Cabinet, I am not prepared to say. I shall content myself at the present moment with the few remarks that I have made, and when the proper time arrives, when it will be necessary to deal with the statement which has been made in another place, I trust I shall be enabled to make such an explanation in reference to myself personally—the statement to which I have referred having had