

Mr. Brown stated that his friends had held a meeting, and approved of the course he had pursued, and the basis arrived at, and authorized him to continue the negotiation.

Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Cartier also said that they had received satisfactory assurances from their friends.

Mr. Brown then stated that it was now for him to consider what course he should pursue, entertaining as he still did the strongest repugnance to accepting office.

A further meeting was appointed for half-past eight P. M., at which the details of the arrangements in case Mr. Brown and his friends accepted office, were discussed at much length.

Mr. Brown contended strongly that the Government should concede a larger representation in the Cabinet than three members. To which it was replied, that the Administration believed it was quite impossible to satisfy their own friends with a different arrangement.

Mr. Brown then asked whether he could be sworn in as an Executive Councillor, without department or salary,—in addition to the three departmental offices to be filled by his friends.

Mr. Macdonald replied that the principle of equality would in this case be destroyed, and he was satisfied it could not be done.

Mr. Brown asked whether it was *sine qua non*, that he should himself enter the Cabinet. To which it was replied that to secure a successful issue to the attempt to settle the sectional difficulties, it was considered that Mr. Brown's acceptance of office was indispensable.

A meeting was then appointed for the following day.

On Wednesday, a little after one, the same parties met—when Mr. Brown stated as his final decision, that he would consent to the reconstruction of the Cabinet as proposed, but inasmuch as he did not wish to assume the responsibility of the Government business before the House, he preferred leaving till after the prorogation, the consideration of the acceptance of office by himself and the two gentlemen who might be ultimately selected to enter the Administration with him.

Sir E. P. Taché and Mr. Macdonald thereon stated that after the prorogation, they would be prepared to place three Seats in the Cabinet at the disposal of Mr. Brown.