

with whom I was associated, I flatter myself that we should have been as successful in carrying on the affairs of this country.

In proof of the suspicion that there were conspiracies against him, the First Minister in this same statement says that until the strike occurred, not one single intimation had been given to him that he was the man in the way.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

#### After Recess.

Mr. MULLOCK. Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, I was proceeding to say that the inference drawn by the public from the action of the gentlemen who withdrew from the Administration did not harmonize with the explanation given by the Ministry to-day: and I must apologize in advance for continuing that line of argument, which is instructive, though perhaps not interesting, and not altogether pleasurable to the gentlemen to whom the references are particularly made. Let me proceed with the evidence, to see whether the statement read to the House to-day, and endorsed by the speech of the Finance Minister, is entitled to credence or not: because, Sir, it is to be borne in mind that we are now testing a most important question in connection with constitutional government, whether or not a Government, or a section of a Government is entitled to represent Her Majesty in the Canadian Parliament who issue to the country statements which are, in themselves, misleading, which are intended to be misleading, and which, in another place, where strict parliamentary rules would not apply, would be characterized as absolutely false. Sir, the First Minister, speaking in another Chamber one week ago, after reading the explanation offered in this Chamber by the Finance Minister, of the reason for the strike of those seven gentlemen, used these words:

Can any of you conceive why, after the opening of the session, after the Speech from the Throne had been given, not only to Parliament, but to the whole country, you should find seven members of the Cabinet sending in their resignations—

Not, as they say to us to-day, because there was a vacancy in the Cabinet, but, as the Prime Minister says:

—simply because they did not like the gentleman with whom they had been so long associated?

I cite the First Minister as a witness against the statements of the strikers themselves. And, Sir, that the issue which I present is the true one, namely, that these strikers concocted a plan for the deposition of the First Minister and the elevation in his place of Sir Charles Tupper, is made abundantly clear in other ways. For ex-

Mr. MULLOCK.

ample, there is published in Toronto a paper called the daily "World," which is well known to be under the control of, and, in fact, owned by the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean), and I have no doubt that the communications from Ottawa to this paper emanate from him, or are sanctioned by him; at all events, they are published with his responsibility. So that this extract which I am about to read bears, not only the weight of a Conservative journal, but that of a supporter of the Administration. I find, then, the Ottawa correspondent of that journal, on the 13th of January, writing as follows of the strike:

All this time, however, friends of the bolting Ministers were thoroughly organized, and played a game of checkmate. It is said they intimated to every member who consented or was disposed to join the Bowell Cabinet, that only failure would result.

And then, after alluding to some attempts at reconstruction, the writer goes on to say:

#### THE BOLTERS GOT IN THEIR WORK.

To-night the friends of the bolters are cock-a-hoop. It is hinted in some quarters that the dissentient Ministers have sent a statement to His Excellency charging the First Minister with misrepresenting their position to him. Report has it also that charges are to be preferred by the bolters against one of their late colleagues. This will take the shape of a statement by Mr. Foster in the House on Tuesday. From present appearances the outlook is a very gloomy one. Charges and counter-charges are being bandied about, with a freedom almost appalling. There is, moreover, lamentable lack of confidence, no one, seemingly, having confidence in his neighbour.

From present appearances, Sir Mackenzie will not be able to fill up the existing vacancies, and this being the case, there will be no alternative but for him to tender his resignation, when, it is expected, Sir Charles Tupper, sen., will be sent for.

There we have his organ giving to us, in advance, a culmination of this scheme. I shall now quote from an important paper, the Hamilton "Spectator," which, I think I am safe in saying, is the leading Conservative journal in Canada, west of Toronto, and a staunch supporter of the Conservative party. This paper, in its issue of the 13th inst., contained an editorial from which I extract the following:—

The unfortunate complications at the capital are due solely to the blunders and wrong-doings of Ministers.

Not to a desire to reconstruct the Cabinet in the way now professed—not in consequence of the Cabinet's being imperfect, as is now alleged, but in consequence of the blunders and wrong-doings of the Ministers. Wrong-doings. What wrong-doings? A conspiracy, a cowardly conspiracy, to depose the Premier in favour of another gentleman. That paper goes on to say:

If disunion and discord reign at Ottawa, if a feeling akin to dismay has consequently spread