

future occasion, instead of an adjournment of four days, an adjournment of four weeks or even four months may be required. For wise reasons the law of Parliament is that when a crisis occurs while Parliament is in session, Parliament shall continue sitting from day to day in order to be informed by the Government as to what progress is being made in the reconstruction of the Cabinet. So it is out of no feeling of antagonism to the leader of the Government or any member of the Government that the Opposition take the stand they do, but it is as a matter of right and law settled by well established precedent. It is the right of the people's representatives to remain here until the Government has been re-formed, and it is the right of the people to be informed through Parliament, from day to day, of what progress is being made in reconstruction. We have no desire to throw any obstacle whatever in the way. On the contrary, we desire to assist the First Minister in every way possible. But what the Government wants to do is to take away from Parliament the right which our constitution gives us, of being informed from day to day as to what progress has been made in the re-formation of the Cabinet. It may be that no exigency will arise which will require Parliament to advise His Excellency. It is unlikely that it will. But if you disregard the plain law of Parliament you make that law of no value; and as the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) says, the Government have been practically ignoring Parliament. If we permit the Government to take this position, we will be practically condoning their course of assuming the power of Parliament instead of merely recording its wishes. Sir, the First Minister of this country is entitled to the sympathy of the members of this House and of the country at large. We find that he is to-day attempting to reorganize his Cabinet. We find that this man who was accepted by his colleagues as the one man fit to fill the place which the late Sir John Thompson vacated, whom the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) and the late Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) said throughout the country, up to a few days ago, was eminently fit for the position he occupies, now attacked and called upon to resign by these men on the ground of incompetency. We find the members of the Crown sitting at the Council table and drafting the Address which has been presented to this House and read by His Excellency; we find measures introduced into this House indicated in that Address; we find Parliament meeting here; and yet in the face of all this and in the face of the statement of the Ministers of the Crown made throughout the country, at the last elections, over and over again, that the Government was a unit upon every public question and that every member of the Government had unbounded confidence in

the First Minister, we find that seven of these Ministers of the Crown, after Parliament has met, send in their resignations and withdraw from the Government on the ground that the First Minister is mentally incapable of governing this country. The evidence all points to the fact, beyond any question, that the First Minister has been made the victim of the blackest political conspiracy that Canadian or English history has ever known. Sir, we can read between the lines; we can draw the necessary deductions from a certain state of facts. We find that the High Commissioner is brought over here ostensibly for the purpose of advising the First Minister as to the fast line and cable schemes. These were mere devices. The plot had been hatched long before Sir Charles Tupper came to this country. The man who leads this Government was persuaded into the belief that it was necessary, for the purpose of ripening these schemes, that Sir Charles Tupper should come to this country, when, as a matter of fact he came here to carry out and give effect to the conspiracy. Sir, he came and the hands of the evil geni can be seen in what takes place from that moment forward. When was it that these men made up their minds that they would abandon their leader and destroy the Government? Sir Charles Tupper, it was announced, would sail for England again. He ought to be in England to-day discharging his public duties. He is a servant of this country as much as any civil servant employed in these buildings. He draws from the coffers of this country \$10,000 a year and expenses. We find him here, a public servant, paid by the public of Canada, plotting against the Administration of the day and seeking to become the First Minister of Canada—to carry out, it may be, the wild schemes that characterized him when he was a member of the Administration of this country? When Sir Charles Tupper comes, what do we find? Why, seven Ministers of the Crown send in their resignations to the old Prime Minister, and they insult him by telling him that he is mentally unfit to lead such intellectual giants as have been associated with him for a number of years past. Evidently, they reckoned without their host. The Prime Minister did not capitulate, he did not say: I am willing to degrade myself; I am willing to go out and let somebody else come in. He has clung to the helm of the ship of state—and that is the trouble. Now, the Prime Minister should have time to reorganize his Administration. No member on this side of the House desires that that time shall be denied him. But, Sir, what we do contend is that the law of Parliament is explicit that during a crisis of this kind Parliament should meet from day to day. What the Government propose is that the law of Parliament shall be disregarded and that the House shall be adjourned for a fixed