

opposed in opinions. There were moments when this was a matter of difficulty. The maintenance of this confidence seemed absolutely essential at a time when feeling throughout the Dominion was running high.

It only remains to be said that when first the announcement was made that the Prime Minister would not resign but would meet the House of Commons, there was a tendency on the part of the Conservatives in general (it must be remembered that political feelings were red-hot at the time) to criticise the Governor General's decision. This quickly disappeared, and it is now universally admitted that the Governor General did the right thing.

On the evening of the 4th November the Prime Minister issued the following statement to the press:

The latest official returns having made it apparent that as a result of the general election held on October 29th no one of the participating political parties would of itself have a clear majority in the House of Commons when Parliament assembled, it became my duty as Prime Minister to acquaint His Excellency the Governor-General with the situation and to advise His Excellency as to the course which should be pursued. After several interviews with His Excellency at which the position brought out by the recent general election was fully discussed and all alternatives presented, I have taken the responsibility of advising His Excellency to summon Parliament for the earliest practicable date in order to ascertain the attitude of the Parliamentary representatives towards the very important question raised by the numerical position of the respective political parties. His Excellency has been pleased to accept this advice.

After careful consideration of the constitutional precedents and their bearing upon the situation which has arisen as a result of the general election, the Cabinet decided unanimously this afternoon that it was their constitutional duty to meet Parliament at the earliest possible moment, regard being had for the legal requirements with respect to the time necessary for the return of the writs and the official gazettement of the members who have been elected.

In the interval until Parliament assembles it is the intention of the Government to refrain from making appointments beyond such as are essential for the proper carrying on of the public business.

In the present situation, there are three possible courses of procedure, each of which has been carefully considered by the Cabinet:

- (1) That His Excellency be asked to grant an immediate dissolution of Parliament;
- (2) That His Excellency be asked to call upon the Leader of the largest political group to form a Government;
- (3) That His Excellency be asked to summon Parliament at the earliest practicable date for the purpose afore-mentioned.

With respect to an immediate dissolution, it was felt that it was not in the interests of the country to occasion the turmoil and expense of another general election until at least Parliament had been summoned and the people's representatives in Parliament had been afforded an opportunity of giving expression to their views.

With respect to the leader of the political party having the largest definite following in the House of Commons being called upon to form an administration, the Cabinet holds the view that responsible self-government in Canada rests upon the principle that the majority are entitled to govern, the majority so understood meaning not the political party or group having the largest number of members, but the majority as determined by the duly elected representatives of the people in Parliament. Far from indicating that Mr. Meighen is in a position to command