

Under the circumstances, and with these objections removed, my late colleagues have deemed it consistent with duty to their country, to resume the positions they respectively held in the government. It is gratifying, therefore, to me to be able to inform the House, and the country, that a Ministry has been formed which will command the support of a majority in Parliament and enable us to proceed with the measures foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne.

The Government as reconstructed is as follows:—

President of Council—Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

Secretary of State—Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.

Postmaster General—Hon. Sir Adolphe Caron.

Minister of Marine and Fisheries—Hon. John Costigan.

Minister of Finance—Hon. Geo. E. Foster.

Minister of Railways and Canals—Hon. John Haggart.

Minister of Public Works—Hon. J. A. Ouimet.

Minister of the Interior—Hon. T. Mayne Daly.

Minister of Trade and Commerce—Hon. W. B. Ives.

Minister of Justice—Hon. A. R. Dickey.

Minister of Agriculture—Hon. W. H. Montague.

Minister of Militia and Defence—Hon. Alphonse Desjardins.

Without portfolio—Hon. Sir Frank Smith  
do Hon. D. Ferguson.

Controller of Customs—Hon. J. F. Wood.

Controller of Inland Revenue—Hon. E. G. Prior.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I see a report in a morning paper that the Conservative whip of the other House, Mr. Taylor, had an interview with Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., now a member of this government, in which that gentleman stated he was willing to enter the government provided the Premier consented to take back all; that it was conveyed to Sir Charles Tupper that there were three gentlemen, Mr. Foster, Mr. Haggart and Mr. Montague, whom he objected to receive back into his Cabinet; that Sir Charles Tupper made it a condition that unless those gentlemen were permitted to

return to the fold with the others, the negotiations must cease, or words to that effect. I shall read the interview to the House, if they desire it, and perhaps the Premier can say whether it is correct or not. The article reads as follows:—

At the request of Mr. Taylor, the Conservative whip, who brought me a message saying that Sir Mackenzie Bowell would like to see me, I waited upon the Premier yesterday at three o'clock. I said I had gathered from Mr. Taylor that he (Sir Mackenzie) would be willing to take back the gentlemen who had retired from his Cabinet, together with myself, with the understanding that shortly after the Address had been passed he would propose that I should be sent for to reorganize the government. Sir Mackenzie said that Mr. Taylor was mistaken in supposing he was prepared to receive back the whole of the gentlemen who had retired from the government, as there were three gentlemen, Messrs. Foster, Haggart and Montague, with whom he could not serve in the government. He was quite ready, he said, however, to take in the remaining gentlemen, including my son. I told him that so far as my son was concerned, from the moment that it was proposed that I should become leader of the Liberal-Conservative party he informed me that in such a contingency he could not be a member of the Cabinet, a decision in which I entirely concurred. I assured Sir Mackenzie that I had approached the consideration of this question wholly from the standpoint of altogether subordinating every personal and private consideration to the exigency of what I believed the party, and that if the best interests of the country required it, I were prepared under those circumstances to enter his government. I thought that he should be animated by the same considerations and ought not to allow his personal feelings towards any gentleman to influence him.

I should like to know whether that statement is really true substantially. I think Parliament is entitled to an answer. In the formation of a government, it is usual for the Crown to furnish the fullest information.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I have no objection to answer, although I deny the position taken by the hon. gentleman that Parliament has a right to ask the result of any private interview.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is not a private interview.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It certainly was a private interview which took place between gentlemen forming or reconstructing a government. Parliament is entitled to know the result of such interviews, but not conversations which took place during the negotiations. Another matter I desire to point out to the hon. gentleman is this: that