

out in this discussion. These features concern, first, the character of the gentlemen who left the Cabinet, and, second, their action as regards the Governor General, the representative of the Queen in this country. In regard to the last feature, and, perhaps, the most important one, it ought to be sufficient to fair-minded men to know, that after explanations have been exchanged between those gentlemen and the present Prime Minister, and submitted to His Excellency the Governor General, there has been found nothing inconsistent with, and nothing derogatory to, the dignity of the Crown, to prevent the Queen's representative taking back to the councils of the country, six of these gentlemen. As regards the other facts which immediately concern the action taken, I am justified in saying that it clearly appears, that whether the point was put before the Prime Minister at the proper time or not, or whether or not wise judgment was used by the seven as to the mode in which they took that important step: they were actuated by two strong reasons and two good reasons. First, the interests of the country, as they conceived. And what did the interests of the country demand? The interests of the country, in their opinion, demanded that remedial legislation, if necessary, should be put upon the Dominion statute-book this session. In their opinion, it was impossible to rely upon hon. gentlemen opposite to do this. In their opinion, the Conservative party alone could be expected to enact that legislation, and, in order to do that, the Conservative party must be strong in the Government, and the Government, in their opinion, never required greater strength than on the present occasion. The proposed legislation is admittedly unique, and it has evoked all kinds of opinions in the two parties. The Conservative party, it is known, was not united and did not speak as a whole upon that subject. No one ever pretended they did.

Mr. LAURIER. The Minister of Finance said the very reverse this afternoon.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not at all. I am speaking of the Conservative party, but the Minister of Finance spoke of the Government, which has always been united on the question. The Cabinet of the Conservative party has been a unit on that question from the first moment down to the present, and only differed last spring in regard to the time when that legislation should be adopted. Regarding that principle of the Conservative party as the most important that was at stake this session, those seven gentlemen, under the circumstances which existed, believed that it was absolutely impossible to hope for success in the promotion of any measure of that kind, while such an extraordinary state of affairs should exist, as that a representative of the French Catholics of the pro-

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

vince of Quebec could not be found to join them in their efforts to obtain that legislation. At the time when the seven gentlemen left the Cabinet, it goes without contradiction that the Government had failed to obtain the services of a representative of the French Catholics of the province of Quebec, in place of the Hon. Mr. Angers, who retired over six months ago. More than that, the gentlemen who took that step believed, and I agree with them to the full, that the Government, as it stood, could not, for that, and other reasons, hope to command the support of their own party, be it ever so strong, numerically, in this House, and could not, with a difficult measure, hope to surmount the difficulties and obstacles that stood in their way. We may have been wrong, we may have been entirely without the necessary faith, and without the proper and fair confidence that we should have reposed in the members of this House. These points do stand out as the reasons which actuated these gentlemen in taking the important step they did. And if any doubt ever entered into my mind as to the wisdom of our course, seeing that we had for an object the success of the legislation to which we were pledged, and the success of the Conservative party at the next general elections, I, for one, would have all that doubt removed on account of the extraordinary spasms which have taken possession of hon. gentlemen opposite since that crisis occurred. Instead of letting loose their invective, instead of breaking through all parliamentary rules, instead of transforming this chamber into a veritable bear garden, these gentlemen should have been as happy as the day is long, and a crisis such as they have described should have brought them joy instead of sorrow. Hon. gentlemen opposite, instead of acting so as to resemble the hyena, which laughs when it is mad, and descending to the vile epithets and gross abuse, mingled with coarse jests and jokes, would have arisen to the dignity of the occasion; buoyed up with hope, they would have presented an entirely different front. But from the very beginning of this episode, they have confirmed me at any rate in the wisdom of the course I have taken. I believe remedial legislation is safe, I believe the Conservative party is safe, and I believe these gentlemen understand that just as well as I do. While they would have preferred things to remain as they were at the beginning of this session, while they hoped for success under that state of things, hope has been banished. Even the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), who last session had assumed an almost genial role, has so lost control of himself that he now in his rage and temper finds it impossible for any one on this side of the House at present to engross his attention, and travel outside of this chamber to abuse an old and absent opponent. Well, it is not for me to defend—thank God,