

the Ministry, I have no doubt, that they would not receive from the country a majority to support their ideas. It might have been hoped by the members of the present Government that they would receive a majority: but whether the majority was to have been Liberal or Conservative, this House had been called to meet on the 16th day of July last. We know that after the general elections the then leader of the Government, for some reason unexplained at the present moment, and for the explanation of which, unfortunately, we have not the papers relating to the circumstance on the Table, deemed it fit to send to the representative of Her Majesty his resignation as leader of the Government. Two courses were then open to the present leader of the House. The one was the true constitutional course to take. He knew at that time that there were no supplies voted for the fiscal year. He knew at that time that Parliament had been called for the 16th day of July. He knew that no constitutional means existed by which supplies could be given him for the purpose of carrying on the public affairs of the country. He knew all these things; and before him was the option, the constitutional option, consecrated by a precedent not very far to seek in England, of declining to accept the responsibility of calling for those supplies, but compelling the then Government to meet the House and ask for the supplies necessary to carry on the government of the country. But there was the other course—I will not say that it was an unconstitutional course, but it was a course which necessitated an unconstitutional proceeding. It was a course which necessitated the hon. leader of the Government adopting means other than those known to our constitution, for the purpose of providing the supplies necessary for carrying on the public affairs of the country. It was a course dictated possibly by that hunger for power which existed in the hearts and minds of my hon. friends opposite, a hunger which found no satiety during the last eighteen years, but which was on the brink of being satisfied the moment the hon. leader of the late Government placed his resignation in the hands of the Governor General. Then was repeated the incident which has been narrated in one of the novels which we have all read in our youth, written by Captain Marryat, in which he describes the first attempt of the inexperienced landsman to get into a hammock. The man does not succeed in getting into the hammock, but tumbles out on the other side. Will the hurried acceptance of power by the present Government at that time result in what Shakespeare termed the "vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself," and which will eventually place hon. gentlemen opposite where they rightfully belong, on the benches of the Opposition?

Mr. LANDERKIN. He is getting hungry already.

Mr. QUINN.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I have tried to point out—and I think by the satisfaction apparent on the faces of hon. members that I have pointed out—what was the constitutional course that should have been adopted by the present Government when the late Prime Minister tendered his resignation to the Governor General. Ought not something to have been said in the Speech from the Throne concerning this matter? Ought not we to have been told why it was that the present Government refused to accept the constitutional method of compelling the previous Government to furnish supplies for the fiscal year? Would not this have properly formed one good sentence, at any rate, in the Speech from the Throne? But there is not one word of this. We are calmly asked to come together for the mere purpose of voting supplies, and placing the Government in a position to carry on the public affairs of the country. The position of the present Government in this respect reminds me of the position of the ambitious assistant who, in the management of a manufacturing concern, succeeds in supplanting the manager of that institution. For years he had been imposing upon his employer with stories attacking the honesty, the sobriety, and the intelligence of the late manager, and at last he succeeds in displacing him, and in being appointed to the position himself. He had been telling what he would do if he were manager—how he would change this and alter the operation of that, how he would economize in various directions, but no sooner is he placed in the saddle than he forgets all the promises he had made, and simply calls upon his employer to advance to him all the capital invested in the institution. I have no hesitation in saying that if such a thing had been perpetrated on any of the large manufacturers of the city for which I have the honour to sit, he would characterize it as a sort of confidence game, and would not respond as heartily as the Government expects this House to respond to the demand which is now made. Would it have been too much, Mr. Speaker, for the Government to have told the importers and the manufacturers of this country what its intention is as regards the tariff on goods which are imported from other countries, or are manufactured in this country? These gentlemen must be aware—and if they are not, they should learn it now—that at the present moment, or within a very few days, emissaries are going from the large importing houses of this country to Europe and to other foreign markets for the purpose of purchasing the supplies necessary for this country for the next year. They must know that these people are waiting anxiously for some message from the Government to inform them whether the goods they are to import are to be taxed less or more than they have been in the past. They must know that during the last few months the trade of this country has been paralyzed by the uncertainty