

Speech from the Throne. He is now waiting until he sees what measure the government will bring down.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate then adjourned.

### THE SENATE.

*Ottawa, Tuesday, 14th January, 1896.*

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I regret that I am not yet in a position to give the House full information as to the reconstruction of the Cabinet. It has, however, progressed to such an extent that I am safe in saying that I shall be enabled to meet the House to-morrow with a complete reconstructed Cabinet, which I have every reason to believe will not only meet the approval and support of the Houses of Parliament, but also of the country. I, therefore, crave the indulgence of the House for another twenty-four hours delay. To-morrow, after making the report to which I have referred, I shall ask the House to proceed with the consideration of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and commence the real business of the session. I therefore move that this House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate then adjourned.

### THE SENATE.

*Ottawa, Wednesday, January 15th, 1896.*

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I desire to fulfil the promise which I

made to the House yesterday. The statement which I am about to make has been submitted to the Governor General, and I am authorized to say that in its bearing on the position of the Crown in matters of this nature, it has His Excellency's approval.

Since reference was made in the Senate to the retirement from the government of certain of my colleagues, I have had an opportunity of carefully reviewing the circumstances connected with those resignations, and have satisfied myself that the best interests of the country would be served—notwithstanding any differences of opinion that existed respecting the importance of filling the portfolio made vacant by the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Angers—by the return to their former positions in the Cabinet of those who deem it their duty to retire on account of that vacancy.

While it is true that this point was freely discussed between my colleagues and myself, it is equally true that I regarded that vacancy—the importance of filling which cannot be questioned—as an insufficient reason for the resignation of any member of the Government. This view, however, was not concurred in by some of my colleagues, who urged that the meeting of Parliament, with a Quebec portfolio vacant, might seriously imperil the success of certain important measures to be presented during the session. I had reasonable hopes of being able to fill that position up to the very day when Parliament met, and was disappointed when my efforts failed.

After the opening of Parliament, certain members of the government sent me their resignations, giving among other reasons the fact that “having failed to fill the portfolio,” and that I evidently “intended to go on with the transaction of public business with an incomplete Cabinet,” they thought this course so great “a departure from sound constitutional practice, and so weak as a matter of policy” that they were “unwilling any longer to remain as members of an incomplete government.”

Since the receipt of the resignations referred to, the objections put forward by my colleagues have been removed by the acceptance of a seat in the Cabinet by the Honourable Alphonse Desjardins—a gentleman well known and esteemed in the province of Quebec for his ability and integrity of character—and by the accession to the Ministry of Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.