

ernment of this country. I say that while Sir Charles Tupper poses here as the chief of the wrecking gang, it is a scandal that he should be receiving public pay which all the people of Canada irrespective of party have to contribute to.

Now, Sir, what would be a petty scandal if it were not in such a high place, between two Ministers, is that matter of the anonymous letters, which should have received further explanation than it has had. The fact that the question is now before His Excellency prevents further being said upon it at the present time. It is well that we have had to-day, at least, what we did not have yesterday, a sort of anonymous explanation of the anonymous charge. I hope, Sir, that to-morrow such an announcement will be made as will enable us to have a fuller discussion of all the issues of the case.

Mr. LAURIER. Before this motion is put, perhaps the hon. gentleman who leads the Government will permit me to ask him for some information as to the character of public business. I understand that at the present moment what is left of the Government is fast depleting this House by distributing amongst its members senatorships, collectorships, and other offices. I understand that since yesterday no less than four or five members of this House, perhaps more, have been appointed to divers offices. I would like to have some explanation as to that.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I cannot give the hon. gentleman the information he requires just now, but I think that by to-morrow I can give it to him.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Well, to hon. gentlemen opposite it may seem very funny, but it is very serious. Supposing those appointments have been made, the papers may not have returned yet from His Excellency, and I think I am right in saying that I will take the first opportunity that I can properly do so, to give my hon. friend the information he asks.

Mr. LAURIER. Then I understand that my hon. friend suggests that His Excellency may think it advisable not to carry out the wishes of his Council.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. LAURIER. That is quite proper, and I think a very good point for His Excellency to consider in his wisdom. Perhaps my hon. friend is right, because I understand there are a hundred or more offices to be distributed, and he cannot remember them all—he may have to refresh his memory on that point.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I wish to correct my hon. friend on one point. Supposing the Orders in Council making those appoint-

ments to have passed, they must go to the Governor General to be signed; and would it be proper for me to give any information until I know whether they have returned from Government House, and whether they have been signed or not signed? Now, with regard to the hundred appointments. I have no manner of doubt that my hon. friend is just speaking from rumours—

Mr. LAURIER. Nothing else.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Well, it is very unsafe to put a question upon rumours.

Mr. LAURIER. It is not safe to depend on rumours, and that is why I want a positive answer.

Mr. EDGAR. There is another rumour which the hon. leader of the House will answer or not as he thinks proper. The latest rumour is that the Prime Minister has ordered the High Commissioner to go back to London and attend to his own business.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 4.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 9th January, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

TRADE CONSPIRACIES AND COMBINATIONS.

Mr. SPROULE moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 12) to amend the law relating to conspiracies and combinations formed in restraint of trade.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Could not the hon. gentleman enlarge the bounds of this Bill so as to include Cabinets as well?

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 9) better to secure the Independence of Parliament.—(Mr. Mulock.)

Bill (No. 10) further to amend the Act respecting the Adulteration of Food, Drugs and Agricultural Fertilizers.—(Mr. Sproule.)

Bill (No. 11) respecting Detective Corporations and Mercantile Agencies.—(Mr. Sproule.)