

bers composing the Cabinet; but when those differences disappear, when those men, sinking their personal views and opinions, band together for the general good, and determine to stay together to carry out the most important matters of public interest that have ever come before the country, I think the people of Canada, at least, whatever hon. gentlemen on your left, Mr. Speaker, may say, will find that the reasons which induced them to resume their portfolios were such as will receive the approbation of public opinion. I am, therefore, not in the least surprised at the manner in which the explanations have been received by the hon. leader of the Opposition. I felt that he would be disappointed, but this is one of those numerous disappointments which he has already experienced, and which he must put up with once more.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, it is not often I feel it to be my duty to differ from the hon. gentleman who sits besides me (Mr. Laurier), but few as those occasions may be, this, I am bound to confess, is one of them. My hon. friend will pardon me when I say that he takes the hon. gentlemen opposite quite too seriously. Sir, he assumes that he is dealing with responsible statesmen. Now, viewed from that standpoint, I must admit that my hon. friend has not said a word too much, and, in fact, a good deal more might justly be said than he has said. But I submit to this honourable body that that is not the true standpoint from which those hon. gentlemen's actions should be regarded. Sir, as I understand it, we are here in the presence of the Royal Ottawa Low Comedy Troupe, and we should be grateful to them for the great benefit they have done us as a party, and for the amusement they have afforded, not only to us, but to all Canada, during some time past. As I understand it, and I submit this to my hon. friend with all deference, what we have been listening to, after all, has really been a series of rehearsals. We had No. 1 rehearsal—because I can hardly count the little episode of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) as one—a sort of undress rehearsal, as we may call it, in July, when three members of the Cabinet went out, and one of them, being a person of some honour and self-respect, stayed out. Then we have lately had what I may call a full dress rehearsal, when seven members went out, and practically seven came back, because the mere substitution of junior for senior, or senior for junior, really hardly affects the situation, as no one will more frankly admit than the hon. member for Pictou. Now these hon. gentlemen being pretty nearly letter perfect, we can have the real performance, which will not long be delayed, when all will go out and none come back. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, allow me to congratulate those hon. gentlemen on the magnifi-

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

cent spectacular effects which they have produced entirely regardless of expense. I think you, Mr. Speaker, will admit, and I think all constitutional authorities from the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) down, will admit it is of the highest moment that the Ministry of the day, under a form of government like ours, should command the respect of the great mass of the people of this country, and the confidence of their fellows. Sir, I think those hon. gentlemen stayed out too long, when they allowed the weekly issues of the Conservative press to be sent to the country, and if I am any judge of the effect produced, it is only too plain that they have utterly failed either to inspire respect in the country, or confidence among their own followers. Now, Sir, let us consider for a moment what this whole farce means. It means, in my judgment, nothing less and nothing more than this: that this whole business has been transacted for the purpose, and for no other purpose, than to make room for my ancient acquaintance, Sir Charles Tupper, Baronet of the United Kingdom. Sir, it is impossible that even such a crew as I see yonder—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is impossible that even such a crew could dream of returning except on a most distinct understanding, whether written or verbal, that within a very short space of time Sir Mackenzie Bowell must make way for Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.

Mr. POPE. You are right for once.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Yes, right for once and right always, and right all through. Not even their fronts of brass (and I give them credit for any imaginable quantity of that commodity)—not even their fronts of brass could endure—and I will do them that justice, and particularly to the Minister of Railways will I do that justice—could endure to sit very long under Sir Mackenzie Bowell in Council after what has passed between them. And now, Sir, as to Sir Mackenzie Bowell himself, and here I candidly confess that I feel some pity for that hon. gentleman. Up to the present time, Sir Mackenzie Bowell might have commanded the sympathy, not merely of a great number of his own followers, but of a large proportion of the people of this country irrespective of party. That was a sympathy which naturally went out to an old leader fighting for his life with his back to the wall against seven treacherous ministers. But, Sir, I am sorry to say for Sir Mackenzie Bowell that although I am ready to make large allowances for him, I must say that he cannot expect the same measure of our sympathy and respect when he sinks to play the part of a warming-pan to one of the most corrupt politicians our country has ever known. As I have said, Mr. Speaker, Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., is a