

no course left but to resign, which it did, after remaining in power for two days. The Governor then called upon Mr. Cartier, leader of the Lower Canada majority, to form a Cabinet, which, with the aid of John A. Macdonald, was speedily done. This Cabinet included John A. Macdonald, Cartier, Alexander T. Galt, and others. Taking advantage of a provision in the statutes of 1857 that where a member of a Cabinet resigned his office, and within one month afterwards accepted another office in the government, he should not thereby vacate his seat, the Ministers, by a simple changing of positions, complied with the law and did not go back for re-election. The courts upheld the Cabinet, but the provision in the Act, which should never have been enacted, was soon afterwards repealed. This "double shuffle", as it was termed, did much to intensify the feeling between the parties. The census of 1861 showed a difference of 300,000 in population in favour of Upper Canada, and the cry for representation by population—"Rep by Pop"—grew louder than ever. Parties became so evenly balanced that a change of a few votes in the Assembly meant a change of government. Thus, in three years four Ministries had been defeated, and two general elections had failed to ease the strain.

Under such conditions Ministers spent their energies in efforts to strengthen their political positions. Corruption flourished, and public business was at a standstill. Repeated changes of Cabinets had been tried, dissolutions of Parliament had been resorted to, every constitutional specific had been tested, but