

ier) of the speeches delivered by the mover and seconder of the address. The mover (Mr. Mowat) bears a distinguished name. Before his entrance into this House he had taken no inconsiderable part in public affairs, and his speech yesterday was delivered with earnestness and was characterized by qualities which I am sure will give him a high place in the deliberations of the House. The seconder of the address has been in Parliament for many years. His devotion to public affairs, his intelligent grasp of all public questions, more than that his courage, are well known to all those who have been associated with him in the past. He happily sustained the excellent record which he has borne among us at all times since he first entered the House.

Now I come to some observations of my right hon. friend. With the exception of the latter part of his speech, his remarks were of an exceedingly critical nature. I cannot say that all his observations were characterized by a keen sense of logic, because he contended in the first place that this is precisely the same Government as in the past, while at the same time he stated there was a marked improvement in its personnel. I cannot quite reconcile these two ideas, and the right hon. gentleman would find it hard to explain how the Government shows that marked improvement in personnel if it is precisely the same Administration as in the past. The right hon. gentleman found a good deal of fault with the Government which preceded the present one, and if one may judge from his observations to-day he is likely to be as intensely critical of the Government which was formed on 12th October last. I quite agree with him that there is a political colour of a pronounced red type, if you like, in some of the gentlemen who are members of the Government. That was precisely the intention when this Administration was formed. We desired to form, and we did form, a Government based upon equal representation of both the great political parties of this country. Practically that has been accomplished, and insofar as it has not been carried out to the letter it will be fulfilled to the letter at the earliest opportunity. I agree with my right hon. friend that the gentlemen who were formerly associated with him on the other side of the House were inspired by a keen and unflinching sense of duty when they agreed to join this Government. That has been publicly emphasized by me on several occasions. In that observation

of my right hon. friend, all sides in this House will heartily concur. The present Government was formed for the purpose of giving a just representation to all those elements of the population who are animated by a sincere desire to throw the full efforts of Canada into this war. It was formed, further, with the idea of giving a just representation to the great industry of agriculture and to the labour organizations of the country. That purpose, I think, has been immeasurably well carried out; and with all respect to hon. gentlemen opposite, I venture to believe that the great Liberal party of Canada is well represented on the Treasury benches of Canada to-day.

My right hon. friend denounced what he was pleased to consider a violation of the electoral laws of Canada, when he alluded to the Order in Council passed on the 12th of March last, under which a preliminary return of the members of this House has been made. I was under the impression that this Order had been laid upon the Table yesterday, but I find that such is not the case. In order that there may be no doubt as to its purport, I shall read the Order in Council as it was passed, after which I shall make a few observations with regard to it.

At the Government House at Ottawa.

Tuesday the 12th day of March, 1918.

Present:

His Excellency

The Governor General in Council.

Whereas owing to conditions arising out of the war there has been unforeseen and unavoidable delay in the receipt by the General Returning Officer of the official statements required by Subsections 4 and 9 of Section 12 of the Military Voters Act, 1917, to be recorded, signed and sent by registered post to the General Returning Officer, and it is by reason of such delay impossible that the proclaiming and return of the members of the House of Commons, as contemplated by Section 14 of the said Act can be made before 18th March, 1918, for which date Parliament is summoned to meet for the despatch of business;

And whereas confusion and great inconvenience in connection with the business of the session, and especially with regard to war measures, will ensue if the assembling of Parliament be postponed until after the fiscal year which will expire with the present month, and it is therefore deemed expedient to authorize the proclamation and return of the members in anticipation of the said official statements upon the telegraphic information received of the facts which the official statements contain:

Therefore His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice and under the powers conferred by the War Measures Act, 1914, and by Section 19 of the Military Voters Act, is