

is given advice which is constitutional and sound, in order that the relations of this country with the Old Land may not be strained in any particular, but that we may be drawn closer and closer together through that bond which is the great bond within the empire, namely, the preservation of the liberties of the Mother Country and of all the Dominions through common political ideals and institutions based on the principle of responsible self-government in the case of each and all.

May I add this word? There is a distinction between the privy council and the cabinet. I hold in my hand one of the orders in council which my hon. friend handed to me at the beginning of the sitting to-day. That order reads:

Certified to be a true copy of a minute of a meeting of the committee of the privy council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General.

There the distinction is suggested between the rights of privy councillors and those of the particular group which constitute the cabinet. A privy councillor has the right to aid and advise His Excellency the Governor General, but it is only a committee of the Privy Council sworn as a cabinet that has the right to perform any executive act, and it is a committee of the Privy Council which constitutes the government of the day. What I contend, Mr. Speaker, is this: While hon. gentlemen opposite have exactly the same privilege that many of us have who sit on this side, as members of the Privy Council, to aid and advise His Excellency, which is the duty of all privy councillors, they have no right and no power to act in an executive capacity, to perform any executive duty whatever until they have taken the oaths of office which will compel them, after accepting office under the crown to resign their seats, and go back to the people for re-election, and then come back to this House with all the authority essential to clothe them with ministerial responsibility. If they are not prepared to take that step immediately, then they should immediately resign.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take up many minutes, but there are one or two points I wish to make that I think may be of interest in this debate. In the first place, we listened last evening for a couple of hours or more to abuse—I might call it a tirade of abuse from the right hon. the ex-Prime Minister—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I take exception to my hon. friend's words immediately, Mr. Speaker. I submit that it is not right for my hon. friend to say that I engaged in a tirade of abuse. He is welcome to his opinion, but I submit that the suggestion is unparliamentary and wholly uncalled for though it is language to which we are accustomed from the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. member would like it said of him that he has indulged in a tirade of abuse as against his opponents. I think the expression is rather too strong.

Mr. MANION: Under the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, since that expression is too strong, and since I do not know any other words that will take their place, I withdraw it. The right hon. gentleman made the remark that it was nothing better than he could expect from me. I wish, Mr. Speaker, you would ask him to withdraw that remark, because it is the second time he has used it of me this session.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I said my hon. friend's remark coming from him came from him; that is all.

Mr. MANION: I do not wish to get into a controversy with the right hon. gentleman. I will leave it to the House to judge what kind of tirade or speech the right hon. gentleman made.

The right hon. gentleman this afternoon in the course of his remarks talked of our threatening the party diagonally opposite, as the expression is, with a dissolution, and he blamed us for what he called threatening the party diagonally opposite—I mean no disrespect when I use that term—the Progressive party. I remember, Mr. Speaker, all through this session, every time a question came up when the late government was in any danger whatever, the ex-Prime Minister turned to the hon. gentlemen of the Progressive party and said: If you defeat the government on this measure it will mean an election. Yet he now takes the attitude that we are threatening them, and are not acting as we should in that regard.

He also asked: What right has the Governor General to refuse him a dissolution, and yet to give it to the right hon. gentleman who is leading this government, the present Prime Minister? Well, so far as I know, Mr. Speaker, the right hon. the present Prime Minister has not asked for a dissolution. I do not know why the leader of the opposition takes that attitude.