

knows that when a man sacrifices his place and power for principle, he has the respect of friends and foes alike. But when a political mountebank or time-server professedly goes out on principle, and eats the leek, and comes back and swallows the principle, he earns the contempt of those with whom he sits, and is despised by his opponents. Well, Sir, what did we see next? We find, Sir, this old ship of state I am talking about, staggering into the parliamentary harbour here the other day, dismasted, running under jury-mast, as my colleague from Queen's County (Mr. Welsh) phrased it the other day to me, and we find, Sir, that notwithstanding the wrecked condition in which she was, public proclamation was made by the Finance Minister that, all suspicions and declarations to the contrary, there was nothing but unity on board that ship, unity among the officers and unity amongst the crew. The hon. gentleman, a few weeks previously, had taken the trouble to go up to Smith's Falls and had proclaimed in the loudest tones he was capable of using that all stories to the effect that there was disaffection in the Cabinet, were untrue, that they were all united, each one to the other, and all to their chief; and he called upon the people to rally around them under the old National Policy because they were united, and because they were loyal, and because, in his opinion, that policy was good for the country. He came here to Parliament. He joined in the public proclamation that peace still continued, that there was unity. He joined in putting a Speech into the mouth of His Excellency. He came down to the House and had that Speech read. He put his name on the Order paper that he would move that the Speech be taken into consideration by this House, and, after having put His Excellency in the most awkward position he could possibly place him, he had the meanness at that particular juncture, and the treachery, I will say, too, to resign his position and throw affairs into a crisis where, except for an accident, the Speech never would have been answered at all. Well, Sir, he tells us that although he joined, as he stated in his explanation the other day, Sir Mackenzie Bowell's Cabinet with many misgivings, he and they had unitedly and loyally striven to maintain that Cabinet intact, and to carry out the principles upon which it was originally formed. What a strange commentary we have had on that official declaration made by the hon. gentleman. I call your attention, Mr. Speaker, and the attention of the House to the fact, that while the words used by the ex-Minister of Finance are still ringing in this Chamber, that they, as a Government, had unitedly and loyally striven to carry out the policy of the Government, within a few days we had the celebrated Caron-Montague letters read in this House, showing the statement was true that the members of the Cabinet

had been, for the past twelve months, flying at each others throats, fighting internally, and that fact was known to the hon. gentleman when he placed his name to the statement that they were loyally united. We have more than that. We had a statement made here by a late member of the Government that at the very time the ex-Finance Minister pledged his word to the statement that the Government were loyal and united, such statement was not true, because the Minister of Railways came to him and told him that "Caron," to use his expression, "should be kicked out of the Cabinet altogether." We have, Sir, the public rumours, which have never been denied, so far as I know, that the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Public Works carried their union and their loyalty to the extent of fighting across the Council Chamber Board. These particular evidences would not show that the Cabinet was united and loyal, but the hon. gentleman, who has made similar statements before, rose in this House and, speaking on behalf of himself and his friends, made that declaration of loyalty and unity which was contradicted so pointedly by one of his former colleagues, the late Controller of Customs, yesterday. One would naturally ask whether, under the circumstances, the old ship is worth saving. I think she is. I think, although the country has been torn by internal dissensions and discussions, she is worth saving, as well from foreign foes as domestic enemies. We have a policy to save her, and we have a leader who can save her. It is true she may have a dangerous cargo on board just now, but I think her timbers and hull are pretty sound yet, and, with a good captain, and an efficient crew, she may be threshed through this storm, and reach her port of destination. But she wants new masts, she needs a new captain, and, I think she must have a fresh crew, and the sooner hon. gentlemen opposite go back to the owners and give up the articles they have signed, and let new officers be elected, the better it will be for themselves and for the country.

Mr. DAVIN. Will you supply the fog horn?

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I need not while you are on deck. I was calling attention, before the interruption, to the fact that the confidence of the public, on which we, as legislators, must depend, has been rudely shaken since Parliament met. My hon. friend referred to a session of Parliament a few years ago. It is within the recollection of hon. gentlemen that when the McGreevy-Connolly scandals were first exhumed and exhibited in this House we thought Canada had reached the point of degradation, below which there was no lower depth. But we had the Caron episode afterwards, and, at that time, the hon. gentleman boasted he would