

pay him that tribute if it were only for his eloquence or the way in which he put his arguments, but what impressed everyone—and I do not think I am wrong when I say that it also impressed hon. gentlemen opposite and stirred their consciences—were the very points which he made and the principles which he endorsed as well as the situation which he outlined, which is of such grave importance in connection with the very welfare of the most cherished rights of the people of Canada.

I shall not stress the point further; I think it has been made perfectly clear that there is no government in this House. There are no ministers properly sworn in who could pass the orders in council under which my hon. friends claim they have a right to pose as acting ministers. I am not making a political speech, but we cannot let hon. gentlemen opposite come before this House and ask us to vote supply, or ask the right to take any stand whatever as ministers when they have not that right. To my mind it is not a question of political advantage; this parliament will go on and men now in this House will disappear, but I daresay this moment of Canadian history will be looked back upon by future generations and that the course we are now taking will be taken into account by those who will succeed us.

Before I take my seat I would like to raise one other point. I was very grieved with the stand the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion) was about to take when very properly called to order. I know—and this will not be denied—that it is already the intention of hon. gentlemen opposite to go back to their constituencies and claim that once again the Tory party has been ultra loyal while the Liberals have not been so.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. RINFRET: I stand in the judgment of the Chair. I know that that is the intention of hon. members opposite; my hon. friend indicated it very clearly in his allusions and when he wanted this House to understand that the leader of the Liberal party had been disrespectful to His Excellency. Although a young member, I have been long enough in political conflicts to know what can be done with that sort of material when some hon. members get back to their constituents. If it is claimed by any Tory candidates in the coming fight that by taking our present stand to-night, that in fighting for popular rights and responsible government there has been an element of disrespect to His Excellency, I cannot agree with it. It has been said and emphasized that the crown

[Mr. Rinfret.]

can do no wrong; certainly His Excellency can do no wrong, but His Excellency can be wrongly advised. I think His Excellency was properly advised by the late Prime Minister when he was asked to grant dissolution, and when he was further advised that no other leader in this House could carry on. Now, after we have given that advice, we are asked to make it easy for others to carry on when in our opinion it cannot be done. Without the least intention of being disrespectful I say again that His Excellency should be advised by the Prime Minister of to-day that he cannot carry on with these shadow ministers who have no authority at all to act in this House. By taking that stand I say we are loyal not only to the crown but to the very best institutions of our country and to the dearest right of our citizenship. Whether we win or whether we lose to-day or this week I am perfectly sure that in this fight the Liberal party has stood for the rights and interests of the country.

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): It is with some diffidence and considerable humility that I rise to address Your Honour and the House this evening on the question now before us. In a recent discussion I stated that I would not be swerved from what I considered to be a reasonable course of action by any attempts of a purely party political character, and that course I have pursued from the very commencement of my parliamentary career. I intend on all questions to be governed by reason rather than political exigencies. Having that viewpoint, Your Honour can understand the position in which I now find myself. This issue is of immense importance because of its vital effect not only on our legislative relationship as between parliament and this so-called shadow government, or those who have usurped government for the moment, but because it also strikes deeper, to the very root of our whole status, and that is one of the reasons why I feel it incumbent upon me to address the House upon this subject.

The tremendous constitutional effects of the recent action should, I think, with all due respect to everyone concerned, be analyzed. As the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Rinfret) has intimated, His Excellency was probably ill advised and is now being ill advised in the position in which he finds himself. At the time of the resignation of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) His Excellency had two courses of action before him which would have been absolutely constitutional. He could either have accepted the advice of his ministers, his properly constituted and sworn ministers, and so be under no possibility of accepting respon-