

General's commands to wait upon him. In the course of the interview, His Excellency did me the honour to propose that I should undertake the formation of a new administration. This task I conceived it my duty to accept. The first step towards its fulfilment was to ascertain from my late colleagues whether they would consent to retain their positions, and on their agreeing to do so I advised that they be continued in their respective offices subject to any such changes as might in the interest of the country be deemed advisable. I may add, however, that Mr. Patterson expressed his wish to retire, but consented to remain at my special request until such time as I could conveniently make other arrangements.

The Cabinet vacancy caused by the death of Sir John Thompson was filled by Mr. Dickey, M.P., for Cumberland, who accepted the portfolio of Secretary of State.

The isolated position of Prince Edward Island renders direct representation in the Ministry desirable. Hon. gentlemen will, I am sure, agree with me that in the accession of the Hon. Senator Ferguson to the Cabinet the people of the island province have every assurance that their interests will be well safe-guarded. The Hon. Sir John Carling having intimated his wish to retire, it was considered expedient further to strengthen the Executive by inviting Mr. Montague, the member for Haldimand, to join the administration without portfolio. In assuming the duties of First Minister, I felt it due to myself that I should be as far as possible untrammelled by departmental responsibilities. With this object, I assumed the Presidency of the Privy Council, my colleague, Mr. Ives, accepting the office of Minister of Trade and Commerce vacated by myself; Mr. Costigan became Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in the room of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, who succeeded to the portfolio held by our late leader.

Subsequently Mr. Patterson renewed his request to be relieved of the cares of office; and the state of his health precluding further postponement of his determination to retire, I was reluctantly compelled to submit his resignation to the Governor General. Mr. Dickey was thereupon transferred to the vacant portfolio of Militia and Defence, and Mr. Montague was appointed Secretary of State.

The Senate adjourned at 5.10 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Monday, 29th April, 1895.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

SAW-DUST IN THE OTTAWA RIVER.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. CLEMOV moved :—

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General; praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before the Senate, copies of all reports, plans, profiles or other evidences in the possession of the government, showing to what extent the Ottawa River has been affected in the past by the dumping therein of saw-dust, mill or other refuse.

He said: As hon. gentlemen are aware, at the last session of Parliament an amendment was made to the Fisheries Act whereby the dumping of saw-dust and other refuse into rivers and streams was prohibited, especially in the case of the Ottawa River. This address is for the purpose of obtaining copies of reports, profiles and other evidence in the possession of the government respecting the effect such dumping has had upon the river. They were prepared some years ago by an officer of the Department of Public Works, and I think they are in the possession of the government. I believe it is intended to move in the direction of having the amendment repealed or modified in some way, and I think it is most desirable that this information should be placed before this House, in order that we may arrive at a proper conclusion with respect to the effect of this dumping in the past. Therefore, I hope the government will bring down the papers. It will have a very desirable effect, and I see no reason why it should be refused in the public interest.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I do not propose to oppose the motion of the hon. gentleman from the Rideau Division, but I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that if the law as it now exists is carried out, there is no necessity for the inquiry which the hon. gentleman proposes to have made, or for submitting the information. When the bill to amend the Fisheries Act was before this House last year, it will be remem-