

at the head of the Government at a time such as the present when, of all times, there is need for clear and firm direction of public affairs. What are the consequences of the action of honourable gentlemen opposite in persuading the Prime Minister to remain nominally at the head of affairs? One is, the persistent rumour, which appears to be not without foundation, that the Prime Minister's resignation has in fact been conditionally, if not absolutely, tendered, and may take effect at any moment, depending, not so much upon the Prime Minister's health, as upon the willingness of his following to accept a policy which he has dictated. Another consequence is that we are told, in addition to having my right honourable friend, the member for North Toronto, as Acting Prime Minister, we are also to have one of his honourable colleagues as acting leader in this House. So we face the Government, at the beginning of a new session of Parliament, not knowing whether it is without a head, or whether it has three heads. How is it possible for public business to be carried on as it should be, under these conditions?

Unfortunate as we are with respect to the head of the ministry, we are almost equally unfortunate with respect

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