

House had very narrow escapes indeed, and we are most thankful that, under Providence, the loss of life was no greater than it was. When one thinks of what might have occurred under different conditions, with all the galleries crowded, I am sure we have every reason, indeed, to be thankful that the loss of life was not more appalling. It is well that we should join in the tribute expressed in the report of the Sergeant-at-Arms to the officers of the House, to the police, to the firemen, and to the troops who were called out by the Minister of Militia, and who rendered splendid service all through the night.

So far as our proposals are concerned, I have already explained to my right hon. friend that we propose today to adjourn until Monday, and to proceed with the public business of Canada in the usual way. It seems to me that such is the desirable course for us to take, particularly as we have fortunately accommodation much more adequate than I had supposed could be found in this building. Doubtless, not only the members of the Government, but the members of the House, will have to put up with certain inconveniences, in proceeding with the public business, as we can not have here all the facilities which were afforded in the splendid building which was almost completely destroyed last night. But I believe it will stand out as a good example of the Canadian spirit of determination if we proceed at once with the public business, and carry on our work without unnecessary delay. What we may arrange for another session, we do not yet know. I have asked my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition to accompany me this afternoon to the new Customs building, with the view of considering whether or not, by stopping the work now proceeding there, and by somewhat modifying the interior of the building for the time being, we should be able to provide there a temporary home for Parliament until a new, more convenient, and more splendid edifice is erected upon the site of the historic buildings occupied by Parliament for so many years. And so I commend to the consideration of the House our proposal to proceed at once, with firm hearts and renewed resolve, in the discharge of our duties as representatives of the people of Canada in this Parliament.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Mr. Speaker, I re-echo every word that has been spoken by the Prime Minister on this

calamitous occasion. Sad indeed are the circumstances under which we meet to-day. The old Parliament Building in which we sat yesterday, and which has been identified with the life of the Canadian people since Confederation, is a mass of ruins. Great though the material loss is to every member of Parliament, to those of the present day and to those of an older generation still living, the loss of life is still more appalling. We had become attached to the scene and to everything which appertained to that building. To the people of Ottawa especially it will be a sad loss, because it was part of the life of the community, as it was the pride of every Canadian who came to Ottawa to see the British flag floating on the stately tower. The noble building will rise again with no loss of time and we will see it again at no distant date, in its pristine beauty. But what can we say about the loss of life. We had yesterday in the full vigour of almost youth, Mr. Law, the member for Yarmouth, whom we are not likely to see again in this life, and who a few hours before had given us his views on a very important question. Now we know his body is in that mass of ruins.

We had at the table an officer who had been for very nearly 20 years a faithful servant of the House of Commons, a man whose courtesy, ability, activity, and kindness every member had learned to appreciate. How he disappeared, we do not know, but unfortunately there is no hope that we will be able to see him again in life.

And what have we to say, Sir, of the loss of those two young ladies, young happy mothers, young happy wives, bright as the lark in the blue sky of the morning, full of life, full of contentment, and appreciating the benefit of their station visiting old friends in their present high station, and now no more.

I have nothing more to say except to endorse what has been said by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, that we should go on at once with the business of the country. When we look at the mass of ruin there on the hill, and when we know that it is the result of an accident, we are reminded of the ruins of Louvain, and of the ruins of Rheims, caused not by accident, but by the wickedness of a cruel foe. If there is anything which the present calamity should impress upon us, it is the desirability of going on with our work and doing everything to bring those cruel murderers to justice.