

proposed to do. I do so with a great deal of diffidence, because I would much rather retire from public life than once more go through the ordeal to which I have been subjected during the last week or ten days. If my retirement from official life will aid in the perpetuation of the principles of the Conservative party, and keep that party where I think it ought to be, that is to say, in power, it would be a matter of small moment to me whether I retire from the position which I hold or whether I leave political life altogether: but so long as I am in this position I propose to act in a strictly constitutional manner and to do only that which is justified by law and precedent. Should I be defeated, either in the House or at the polls, it will be an honourable defeat, but to retire now, after having been attacked in the manner already referred to without this explanation being placed upon record, would, I consider, be dishonourable and leave a stain upon my reputation which I do not desire to hand down to my family. I therefore beg to state that after several interviews with the Governor General respecting the resignation of seven of my colleagues in the cabinet, I yesterday waited upon His Excellency for the purpose of tendering my resignation. His Excellency intimated that he was not at that moment prepared to receive it. The chief reason for this attitude on the part of His Excellency is that the Speech from the Throne, although presented to Parliament, has not yet been considered, nor an expression of opinion given by Parliament upon it. It is regarded by His Excellency as unfitting, that the Premier, as head of the administration responsible for that speech, should not have a full opportunity of reviewing the situation and testing the feelings of Parliament thereon. Under these circumstances I deem it my duty to endeavour, as far as in me lies, to re-organize the Government. I, therefore, move that when this House adjourns, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, the 14th inst., at three p. m. If the House desires it, I have no objection to making it Monday at three p. m., or at eight p. m., whichever may be desired. If I cannot succeed in re-organizing the administration within the three days, then I shall do that which is the constitutional duty of every premier who finds himself in such circumstances, namely, place my resignation in the hands of His Excellency. Let me say this, in closing, that

although I am not going to pledge myself publicly to the details of any measure which may be proposed in Parliament, I wish it to be distinctly understood that whatever government is formed, if I am to be its leader, must be formed on the basis of the principles enunciated in the Speech from the Throne. I shall not consent to be connected with any body of men who are not prepared to carry out and hold inviolable the pledges which were then solemnly made to Parliament.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—In regard to the personal explanation given by the Premier, I think he may rely upon receiving the sympathy, not alone of his friends in this chamber, but of the press of the country, as well as of a great majority of the people of Canada. The people of this country like to see fair-play, and they cannot admit, I am sure, that the course lately pursued towards the Premier, can be called reasonable or proper. The Premier has, apparently, assumed that the reasons set forth in the statement made by Mr. Foster in another place, are the real reasons which prompted the extraordinary course of the seven gentlemen who have resigned. For my part, I am not so credulous, nor do I think there is any one in this chamber so credulous as to suppose that their true and honest reason is given in that statement. By their declarations made from time to time, but more particularly during the elections recently held, the ministers led the people of the country to believe that the utmost harmony prevailed in the cabinet. The electors who were addressed by the several ministers in Montreal, Jacques Cartier, Cardwell and elsewhere, were informed that perfect unanimity existed among members of the cabinet on all matters of public policy, and on every possible occasion a eulogy was pronounced upon the Premier as being the best man for the position in the whole of the party. Let me read some of the recent utterances of these gentlemen, to show how utterly inconsistent Mr. Foster's statement is with the expressions made use of before public audiences. Messrs. Foster and Haggart met recently at a public meeting in Smith's Falls, and I wish to read from the report of the *Mail and Empire*, a part of the speech made on that occasion by Mr. Foster. His remarks, I may say, were afterwards acquiesced in by Mr. Haggart, who