

might happen to his ministers, took the oath of office, he at least would have to vacate his seat in the House. A good deal would also depend upon whether the Prime Minister recently resigned for himself and his ministers as well, or whether his ministers put in their individual resignations. Undoubtedly under the statute as it exists to-day, a minister who tenders his individual resignation may within thirty days be appointed to and fill another ministerial office without a by-election. But the leader of the opposition, even if this resolution passes and the present government resigns, will not be in a position to attend sessions of the House and conduct the administration.

This resolution does not ask that writs be issued to fill vacancies; it does not ask that an address be passed in this House reflecting on the conduct of His Excellency the Governor General, which has formed the whole body of hon. gentlemen's criticism. It is a resolution which I have described in apt terms as so ridiculous that it would not do credit to the skill of an ordinary schoolboy, and it does not contain a single statement of fact which can be relied upon. In other words it is an imposition on the intelligence of the House.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York): I would not take part in this debate but for the fact that the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Garland) referred to my views regarding the future of Canada and the status which she should hold in the British Empire. I believe that a great federation of British parliamentary commonwealths, a federation greater than the United States of America, is in process of formation now and within that federation every unit will have absolute independence in the conduct of its own affairs. That has always been my belief. The chief feature of such a federation will be in my opinion an absolute equality as between one commonwealth and another in self-government.

I was impressed with what the hon. member for Bow River said, as well as with the remarks of the ex-Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), to the effect that any parliamentary principle that obtains in the Mother Country should be respected in any of the dominions. If the Prime Minister has the right in the Mother Country to advise the sovereign, with the assurance that his advice will be accepted, the same right should obtain in this country. And I believe that will be the view of the Prime Minister now in office (Mr. Meighen). What is good enough for the Old Country should be good enough for Canada and Australia and all the other common-

wealths of the empire. Unless we have absolute self-government here at home we shall not be able to compete with the great republic to the south of us.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Hon. gentlemen applaud that statement. Well, the Conservative party has always held that position. It was the view held by Sir Robert Borden and I am sure the present Prime Minister will hold it. Now we must take a step forward and, as I say, if we have not complete home government we shall be unable to compete with our neighbour. Canada must be put on an equality with every other country on this continent in the matter of government, and nothing will help to bring this about so much as the co-operation of the Mother Country.

I cannot support the motion before the House; it is more or less a subterfuge. It is a subterfuge in view of the recent finding of a committee of this House in regard to the Customs scandals; that is a finding of the House and a finding of the country, and the people want an opportunity of expressing themselves in regard to it. I have been in this House perhaps longer than any other member; I hope the new Prime Minister will back me up when I say we should have dissolution right away and that this question should be submitted to the people. While I am saying that on my own account I believe it is what the people ask for. The Globe, the leading Liberal paper of Ontario came out three or four weeks ago demanding dissolution; the Montreal Gazette, expressing Conservative opinion, came out this very week with a similar demand, while the Winnipeg Free Press, which represents the western Progressive element, calls for the same thing. I hope the Prime Minister will find a way to go to the country on this question in order to clean up affairs in Canada. The present situation is most unsatisfactory; we can no longer bear the bad name which we have acquired. We must try to clean up the situation and to my mind the only way it can be done, and the way which will be insisted upon, is an appeal to the highest court of Canada, the men and women who constitute our electorate. They are the people to clean it up; they are ready to do so, and I am sure the public opinion now forming will be effective, possibly under the leadership of the new Prime Minister, in having this matter cleaned right up. I am sure that opinion will be supported by members on both sides of the House, because there are men patriotic enough, men who have studied the constitu-