

ways and Canals, Hon. John Haggart; Minister of Public Works, Hon. J. A. Ouimet; Minister of the Interior, Hon. T. Mayne Daly; Minister of Trade and Commerce, Hon. W. B. Ives; Minister of Justice, Hon. A. R. Dickey; Minister of Agriculture, Hon. W. H. Montague; Minister of Militia and Defence, Hon. Alphonse Desjardins; without portfolio, Hon. Frank Smith, Hon. Donald Ferguson; Controller of Customs, Hon. J. F. Wood; Controller of Inland Revenue, Hon. E. G. Prior.

An hon. MEMBER. And Solicitor General?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. There is no Solicitor General at present. This is the statement I have the honour to lay before the House. I move that this House do now adjourn.

Mr. LAURIER. So, at last, Mr. Speaker, after these long days of waiting, after the public business has been blocked for almost two weeks, after the House has been subjected to the ignominy of dancing attendance upon the pleasure of weak and vacillating men—vacillating by their own admission as stated here to-day—at last the comedy is at an end; and the end is what might have been expected from the experience we have had in the past under similar circumstances, just what everybody might have foretold;—the stray sheep have gone back to the fold, the bolters have eaten their words, and they are expected to sit again under the man, who just a week ago yesterday, they declared was too small to be their leader. Sir, it is always the same thing, everybody might have expected it. These ministerial crises are becoming ludicrously monotonous in their regularity and in their sameness. It is always the same thing. A few days out in the cold and they return to the fold. A general kissing and embracing, an admission and confession of guilt, pardon from all sides, and everything serene and lovely on the surface; though, I presume, still underneath there is a great deal of kicking, and swearing, and cursing, and vilifying each other. In the month of March last year my good friend, whom I am sorry not to see in his usual seat at the present time—he was at one time Minister of Justice; he is now simply a member of Parliament, my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper)—gave a bad example. One day, from the serene skies, came a bolt from the blue. We were told by the papers that he had withdrawn from the Government; but after a few days he asked to be taken back again. One day we were told that Achilles had withdrawn into his tent, that he refused to come out. But, after sulking a few days in the cold, he came back repenting, subdued and tamed. Then, in the month of July, my hon. friend, the warrior of the party, the former Minister of Militia and Defence, the present Postmaster General, and my hon. friend the Minister of Pub-

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

lic Works, did the like thing; they also went out in the cold, and, after three days, they came back again, repentant, subdued, tamed. Now, Sir, on this occasion it was not only one or two, but even seven members of the Administration who went out—what shall I say?—in a moment of weakness? Yes, it is nothing else, by the confession of the hon. gentleman—in a moment of weakness, and they also came back to the fold. But I must give credit to whomsoever credit is due. They have exhibited upon this occasion a staying power which their colleagues on the former occasion did not exhibit. They remained out ten days in the cold, but they found the cold too much for them, and they also came back tamed, subdued, repentant. Well, Sir, now, in view of the result, it is not inappropriate for us to look at the causes which gave occasion to this crisis. In view of the results we have at the present time, it is not inappropriate to go back to the language which was used on the former occasion by the hon. Finance Minister, when he gave to the House the reasons which had induced him and his colleagues to take the very extraordinary course they have taken. He stated, that after the death of the late Sir John Thompson, when the present Prime Minister, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, was called upon to form a Government, they accepted indeed to serve under him, though with great misgivings, and the course of events more than justified those misgivings. The course of events has shown that, though they had supported the Government with their gigantic intellects, still the result had not been such as one would have expected. They did not obtain that measure of success which they had reason to believe should meet their efforts, and, therefore, tired and fatigued with struggling in vain for a Government which was weak, they had taken the course of resigning. True it is, that before they took that supreme course they had again and again hinted to the Prime Minister that it would be well for him to make way. But the Prime Minister was deaf on that score. He did not hear, at all events he did not accede to those hints, and he remained obdurate. Then they took the only course which was left to them to take, that was to resign in a body. They wished to have a strong Government,

A Government whose Premier could command the confidence of all his colleagues, could satisfy the Liberal-Conservative party that its strongest elements were at its head, and impress the country that it had a Government which was united and had power to govern.

This was the reason why they bolted, this was the reason why they resigned, in order that they might have the strongest Government possible, in order to satisfy the Liberal-Conservative party that the strongest elements were at its head; and in order, last, though not least, "to impress the country that it had a Government which was united and had power to govern." Such was the