

event, I must admit, but it is not an event I would imagine which would bring on such a crisis as we have at present. What is the true cause I ask? We are told in the organs of the Government that the Conservative party are dissatisfied with the leadership of Sir Mackenzie Bowell. As to that I have nothing to say. It is a purely family quarrel in which I would not at all venture to take any part. It is for the Conservatives themselves to settle that question. But, Sir, if that were the cause, if that is really the reason, and the only reason why we have the present crisis, then, met as we are here to-day to discuss the Speech of His Excellency, and asked as we are to adjourn the House, we had better know whether that is the cause or not. But, Sir, this cause existed long ago. Whether the Conservative party at large is or is not satisfied with the leadership of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, it is for gentlemen on the other side of the House and not for me to determine. I have to say that Parliament would be trifled with if that were given as the cause why we should not proceed with the business of the House. Parliament has been called to determine a certain policy, but to me it looks very much as if this were another of those expedients, of which we have had too many already, in order to afford the Government an opportunity to not carry out the pledges which they have given Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER. Is the motion of the hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) objected to?

Mr. LAURIER. Certainly; notice must be given.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I will give it as a notice of motion for to-morrow.

Mr. LAURIER. For the day after to-morrow.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, before the House adjourns, I rise to perform a duty which I conceive should be performed at once, and to say at the same time that I do not propose (as neither, I think, do my colleagues who are acting with me in this matter) to enter into any discussion of the subject. I will to-day simply make a statement for the information of the House and the country as to our position—I mean the position of those gentlemen who thought it their duty to retire from the Government—and I shall briefly state the reasons why they retired. I may say in the first place that there is no disagreement between ourselves and the Premier upon any question of public policy, trade or constitutional, with regard to which action has been already taken, or in respect to which an attitude has been assumed by the Government under

the present Premier. I beg also to say that we retain our firm belief in the principles and policy of the Liberal Conservative party, with which we are in entire accord, and of which, in common with others, we have been and will remain the exponents in so far as our ability admits. We have lost none of our confidence in the sound and healthy condition of the Liberal Conservative party of Canada, or of our belief that it embodies a policy which the majority of the electorate considers essential to the continued welfare and progress of the country, or of our faith that under firm and prudent leadership it will come back triumphant from the polls. Though with many misgivings we agreed to enter the Government under Mr. Bowell in succession to Sir John Thompson, we have nevertheless unitedly and loyally striven to the best of our ability to make it strong and efficient, and it has been with growing regret that we have seen our efforts result in a measure of success less than that for which we had hoped and striven. We are of the opinion that the Liberal Conservative party ought to be represented by the strongest Government possible to be secured from its ranks, that the necessity therefor was never greater than under existing circumstances, and we believe that such a Government can be formed without delay. This we have repeatedly urged upon the Premier with the result that we found ourselves face to face with Parliament having a Government with its numbers incomplete, and with no assurance that the present Premier could satisfactorily complete it. Under these circumstances we thought it our duty to retire, and in this manner to pave the way, if possible, for the formation of 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. We affirm with the utmost sincerity that the action we have taken has sprung from no feeling of personal dislike or of personal ambition, but has been solely dictated by our wish to sink all minor considerations in the presence of our great desire that the best interests of our party and country should be duly conserved.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, which is the more extraordinary—the request made by the present leader of the House or the statement to which we have just listened from the ex-leader of the House. Sir, I have had some parliamentary experience. It is three and thirty years since I first sat in the Parliament of the then two Canadas, and in all that time, although I have seen many crises and assisted at some, I can recall nothing in the faintest degree parallel with the present condition of things. Sir, I defy my hon.