

*Supply—Formation of Ministry*

thing remain on the statute books as a result of this session. What is asked is not an indefinite running on of this government formed in unusual circumstances. It is simply to close supply and finish the legislation which only awaits the last touch.

Mr. PARENT: It must be done legally.

Mr. GEARY: No one has seriously raised the question of legality. The thing is perfectly legal. As I understand it, the question in dispute is the constitutionality of advice given to the Governor General.

Mr. PARENT: There is no difference between legality and constitutionality.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I have now the quotation to which reference has been made, and it verifies absolutely every remark I made. It reads:

The only statement I wish to make is this. I think on the question of the completion of the session there should be a conference between the Prime Minister and myself, in which conference I am prepared to engage.

Not a word there about co-operation; it is a conference between the then Prime Minister and the right hon. gentleman now acting as Prime Minister. What has that to do with the situation?

Mr. HOCKEN: What would be the purpose of a conference?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Why not confer with the force which is really of use to the right hon. gentleman?

Mr. HOCKEN: In my judgment, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) owed a duty to the country to close the session in an orderly manner.

Mr. GEARY: A conference is not sought for the purpose of arranging a fight. One does not confer for that sort of thing. The object is to come to some understanding, and what does an understanding imply if not co-operation? It does not occur to me that we get very far by splitting hairs on the meaning of words.

Mr. LAPOINTE: In what capacity did the then leader of the opposition ask for a conference? He had not been summoned to form a cabinet at that time.

Mr. GEARY: I do not care whether or not he had any capacity at that moment, but there was an opening that would lead to a conference between two positions which were sure to be established in the next few hours, as events very soon proved.

[Mr. Geary.]

Mr. LAPOINTE: He had been so nice to us all along that he wanted us to facilitate matters even before he was summoned.

Mr. GEARY: One may take a narrow view of the question.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes, we know where the broadminded people are.

Mr. GEARY: At all events the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) will not say now that the next day, when the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen was summoned to be Prime Minister, the present leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) was prepared to enter into a conference.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I hope not.

Mr. DOUCET: We knew that.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is my sincere word.

Mr. GEARY: Since the late government resigned a number of attempts have been made in succession to divert attention from the blasting effect of the Customs inquiry. Hon. gentlemen opposite have endeavoured to secure a majority by some trick or subterfuge in order to get past that vote of censure, and now they are trying to have the House adopt a motion, the effect of which would be to whitewash them and put them back on the benches from which they have been driven.

The ex-Minister of Justice on one occasion, describing something that had occurred on the other side of the House when we sat there, said that it was not cricket. May I ask whether the late actions of hon. gentlemen opposite are cricket? They were given "out", and ever since have been grouching against the umpire's decision. I submit that the interests of the country demand that the government be given every opportunity to do what doubtless was implied in the advice tendered His Excellency, namely, to close out the estimates so that the business of the session may be brought to a conclusion. We have the formal declaration of the Prime Minister that the offices of ministers will be definitely filled, that the necessary elections will be held, and that every other procedure which may be required will be taken. It is not as though the government were attempting to carry on for any length of time with the present ministry, which is temporary. The object is merely to close the work of the session so that the labours of these past six months shall not have been futile.

Mr. C. H. CAHAN (St. Lawrence-St. George): I had intended to consider in some detail the sections of Chapter 10 of the Re-