

dissolution to the Prime Minister who asked for it. Therefore there is no discussion on the matter. It is a constitutional course if the Governor General chooses to take it. The attitude taken by the right hon. gentleman who is to-day Prime Minister of this country was the only patriotic attitude he could take. He had to form a government and attempt to carry on until the business of the House was completed. After that if he wishes to dissolve parliament, that is his affair.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Does the hon. gentleman ask the House to accept the sixteen precedents which he has quoted as an example to be followed to-day and so deny the evolution which has taken place in our status and which is acknowledged by his previous leader, Sir Robert Borden?

Mr. MANION: I do not deny our evolution, and I do not pretend to be an authority on constitutional questions; but I have read enough of constitutional questions to know that it is the right not only of the king, but of the Governor General to advise with his ministers. My hon. friend will not deny that. I am not using these citations to prove the case. I am showing simply that the attitude taken by the leader of the opposition is wrong in implying that this is an unprecedented case. I gave sixteen citations. The right course for the right hon. gentleman opposite to have taken, since he objected so much to the course we have taken, was to go to the Governor General, state that he could not carry on properly, and ask for dissolution. If the Governor General did not agree, then his duty was to come back to the House and attempt to carry on until he was defeated.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My duty was to do whatever His Excellency would ask me to do under the circumstances. I indicated clearly to His Excellency that I was desirous that my resignation should be withheld by His Excellency if he desired to hold it pending an arrangement of any kind.

Mr. MANION: I think I have shown convincingly there are many precedents for the attitude taken to-day. I also believe the right hon. gentleman opposite, having taken the attitude which he has taken, should have patriotically assisted instead of attempting to embarrass the right hon. gentleman who is now Prime Minister of this country.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

After Recess

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Hon. J. C. ELLIOTT (West Middlesex): When the House rose at six o'clock I was about to address myself to some of the remarks of the Acting Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, of Health, and of Labour (Mr. Manion). Before coming to the arguments which I intend to submit to you, Mr. Speaker, I desire to refer briefly to the three main points stressed by the hon. member. In the first place he referred to what occurred when Sir John A. Macdonald was defeated in consequence of the Pacific scandal. The Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, as the House will remember, was asked to form an administration as a result of Sir John Macdonald's defeat. I am rather surprised that my hon. friend should have cited that case in support of his contention. What did the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie do when his opponents were defeated in the House and he was called upon to form a government? Did he do as hon. gentlemen opposite have done? Did he attempt to form a visionary, illusory, shadowy, ghostlike administration, or did he, in the regular course, create a cabinet which would be really vital and which gave evidence of some of the characteristics of a true government? The Hon. Mr. Mackenzie formed a government mostly composed of members of the House to whom were assigned portfolios of departments of government, who were forthwith sworn as responsible ministers. On the advice of the first minister the Governor General, Lord Dufferin, prorogued parliament the same day upon which the ministry took office. Writs were issued for the elections necessary to fill the seats in parliament thus vacated, in order that the new ministers should at the earliest possible date obtain the sanction of the electors for exercising their functions as responsible ministers of the crown. All the ministers were promptly returned, several of them by acclamation. After continuing in office for a period of about two months—that is to say, during November and December, 1873—Mr. Mackenzie obtained from the Governor a dissolution of the parliament elected a little more than a year previous, and a general election ensued in which Mr. Mackenzie's administration was sustained by a majority of eighty. This was the course followed in the instance cited by my hon. friend, and the House can contrast the difference between the attitude shown by the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie towards the responsibility which he felt devolved upon him on being asked to form an administration and the sense of responsibility which apparently