

by the leader of the House, that there was no such vacancy, and, if there was not, there could have been no such appointment. He hoped the matter would be corrected, and the contradiction between the statements of that hon. gentleman and those of the hon. the Speaker reconciled.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said there was no contradiction. Mr. Piché received an intimation of what was the intention of the Government and acted upon it, he had no doubt, gladly enough.

MR. ANGLIN said if Mr. Piché was still an officer of the House, as the right hon. the Premier had stated, he was still First Assistant Clerk, he held no other office, and yet his hon. friend the Speaker informed the House that he had appointed Mr. Bourinot First Assistant Clerk; he did not say, however, that it was in place of Mr. Piché, so they had the extraordinary spectacle of two First Assistant Clerks, one drawing his full salary, and the other hoping for some provision which the right hon. gentleman had said would be very satisfactory; but, meanwhile, drawing a salary, or at least entitled to it. He (Mr. Anglin) rose chiefly, however, to reply to one or two very extraordinary remarks of the Premier. He (Mr. Anglin) endeavoured to make his statement as mildly and moderately as the circumstances permitted. The right hon. gentleman did not choose to so regard it, for he spoke a little more warmly than the occasion required; but that would not have been of much importance, if he had not made some very extraordinary statements. He said that his (Mr. Anglin's) exercise of an authority which he believed he possessed up to the 13th of February at three o'clock in the afternoon, conflicted with the authority which the present Speaker did not possess till after that hour; that he (Mr. Anglin) endeavoured to render the Speaker's position difficult; that he exercised patronage which, in modesty and propriety, should have been left to the present Speaker. The right hon. gentleman overlooked a very important statement of his that, in the first place, he acted upon the direct information of the Clerk that it was abso-

lutely necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the House, that the vacant office should be filled; and, furthermore, that the duties could not be performed with the office not filled. He (Mr. Anglin) did not think that, when doing what he believed necessary in the interest of the public, he was interfering with the powers which the present Speaker did not then possess. No conflict of authority could thus be considered possible, nor was it fair to assert that he had meddled improperly or unfairly with the Speaker's authority. It would have been quite competent for the Speaker to remove the persons he (Mr. Anglin) had appointed, although this would have been entirely contrary to usage and custom. Nevertheless, he believed, had they been removed for any good reason, the House would probably have approved the act, and he (Mr. Anglin) would not have raised his voice to condemn it. He, however, believed that he had authority for his course. He thought the right hon. gentleman was mistaken with regard to the connection between the right of dismissal and the right of appointment in certain cases. They might search all the Statutes, and find no other which clothed any official merely with the right of dismissal, as the Canadian Act did, and not, at the same time, with the right of appointment. There might be some cases of a contrary character, as the Premier alleged, and, if he produced authorities to show,—as he promised to do—that, while the right of appointment implied the right of dismissal, the power of dismissal did not include the power of appointment, he would be much surprised. *Ex necessitate rei*, the power of appointing in this case must be implied in the power of dismissal, else at some period the public interest must greatly suffer. He (Mr. Anglin), however, was willing to submit to any decision of the House, having no personal interest in the matter. Another of the extraordinary statements of the right hon. gentleman was that the Speaker belonged to a party, or was its mouthpiece, mainly, and not the Speaker of the whole House.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I said nothing about party.