

information I should like to obtain at the present moment.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. If I could give that information to-day, I would hardly ask the hon. gentleman to consent to an adjournment of the House until to-morrow. But I tell my hon. friend that I will not keep him without that information any longer than to-morrow at three o'clock, and I am sure the hon. gentleman would be disappointed, as he has agreed to the adjournment, if I were to give him any information until to-morrow, when I can give him the whole programme, which I have already promised to bring down.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.50 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 15th January, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, certificate of the election and return

Of Edward Gawler Prior, for the Electoral District of Victoria, B.C.

MEMBER INTRODUCED.

Edward Gawler Prior, Esquire, member for the Electoral District of Victoria, B.C., introduced by Hon. Mr. Daly and Mr. Mara.

MINISTERIAL RESIGNATIONS.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to make a statement to the House. And I wish to say that the statement I am about to make has been submitted to the Governor General by the Prime Minister, and I am authorized to say that, in its bearings on the position of the Crown in matters, of this nature, it has His Excellency's approval. Since reference was made, in this House, to the retirement from office of certain members of the Government the Prime Minister has had an opportunity of carefully reviewing the circumstances connected with these resignations, and has satisfied himself that the best interests of the country would be served, notwithstanding any differences of opinion that exist re-

specting the importance of filling the portfolio made vacant by the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Angers, by the return to their former positions in the Cabinet of those who deemed it their duty to retire on account of that vacancy. While it is true that this point was freely discussed between the Prime Minister and his colleagues, it is equally true that the Prime Minister did not regard that vacancy—the importance of filling which cannot be questioned—as a sufficient reason for the resignation of any member of the Government. This view, however, was not concurred in by some of his colleagues who urged that a meeting of Parliament with a Quebec portfolio vacant might seriously imperil certain important measures to be presented during this session. He had reasonable hopes of being able to fill that position up to the very day when Parliament met, and was disappointed when his efforts failed. After the opening of Parliament certain members of the Government sent their resignations to the Prime Minister, giving among other reasons, the fact, that “having failed to fill the portfolio” and, that he evidently “intended to go on with the transaction of public business with an incomplete Cabinet,” they thought this course so great “a departure from sound constitutional practice and so weak, as a matter of policy,” that they were “unwilling any longer to remain as members of an incomplete Government.”

Mr. MULOCK. And therefore to make it more incomplete.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I think the hon. gentleman will permit me to continue the statement. Since the receipt of the resignations referred to, the objections put forward by the Ministers who resigned have been removed by the acceptance of a seat in the Cabinet by the Hon. Alphonse Desjardins, a gentleman well known and esteemed in the province of Quebec for his ability and integrity of character, and by the acceptance to the Ministry of Sir Charles Tupper, Bart. Under these circumstances and with these objections removed, the Ministers who resigned have deemed it consistent with duty to their country to resume the positions they respectively held in the Government. It is gratifying, therefore, to be able to inform the House and the country that a Ministry has been formed which will command the support of the majority in Parliament and enable us to proceed with the measures foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne. The Government, as reconstructed, is as follows:—President of the Council, Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell; Secretary of State, Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.; Postmaster General, Hon. Sir Adolphe Caron; Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Hon. John Costigan; Minister of Finance, Hon. George E. Foster; Minister of Rail-