

definitely what course the Government has taken, or intends to take, under these circumstances. Considering the gravity of the situation, I have to ask that when the House adjourns to-day—of course, I am aware that without notice I can only move for an adjournment from day to day—it stands adjourned for ten days, or a fortnight, which would allow time to consider the gravity of the circumstances. This is the statement, Mr. Speaker, which I have the honour to lay before the House. Therefore, I move :

That when the House adjourns this day, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, the 21st instant.

Mr. LAURIER. Mr. Speaker, I really believe that my hon. friend who now leads the House will not be surprised if I tell him at the outset that it will not be possible for me, nor for any of those who sit on this side of the House, to agree at this moment to the proposition that the House should adjourn at all, except in the ordinary way from day to day. I understand very well that the Government are in a very peculiar position, and that they are entitled, I must say, to some commiseration. I am not disposed to refuse that commiseration to them in any way. But on the other hand, we must have something like parliamentary government in this country, and it is time that we should put an end to the travesty, to the mockery, and to the sham which has been too long going on here under the name of parliamentary government. It is not at all surprising to me that there should be resignations of members of the Cabinet. I must say that I have rather expected it ever since we had the resignations on the 8th of July last. I expected then that the day would come when another wing of the Cabinet would do the same thing as had been done by the wing of the Cabinet which resigned on that occasion. On that point I have nothing to say further than this: The hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) has told us that seven of the members of the Administration have resigned. Sir, the hon. gentleman should have told us what is the cause which has brought on these resignations. Not a word, not a syllable, not a scintilla of information has been given to the House upon this most important subject. We knew before the hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) spoke—because the fact had gone abroad through the length and breadth of the land—that seven of his colleagues had resigned, but we were in the dark then and we are in the dark yet, as to what are the causes which led to this most extraordinary and important course. What are the causes? I must assume, Mr. Speaker, that some extraordinary event has taken place which has induced seven of the members of the Administration to take such a course. I cannot assume for a moment that the hon. gentlemen who have resigned, have tendered their resignations to the Premier for causes which existed when this Parliament

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

met on the second of this month. To assume that, would be to assume that these hon. gentlemen had acted not only in a most unparliamentary manner, but that they had acted in a most treacherous manner to the Premier, and in a most unpardonable manner towards the dignity of the Crown. Why, Sir, what is the position we are in at this moment? The position is this: On the 8th of July last, when the Cabinet had been tossed to and fro, and undecided as to whether or not they would introduce a measure of remedial legislation with regard to the Manitoba school case, based upon the Order in Council of the 21st of March last, they came here with the announcement that they were to reopen negotiations with the government of Manitoba, and that in the event of Manitoba failing to give to the minority the redress which the minority was asking for, then they would summon Parliament not later than the 2nd of January and introduce remedial legislation and press it to a conclusion. Parliament was summoned to assemble on the 2nd of January, and Parliament met on the 2nd of January. The whole Cabinet has put in the mouth of His Excellency a statement of the policy which the Government intended to carry on this session, and of the measures which they proposed to introduce. This was assented to unanimously. All the colleagues of the Prime Minister, of course, pledged themselves to the support of that policy. Now, are we to suppose that after the whole of the Government have been committed to that policy, after they have taken their course, and after they have placed in the hands of the Crown the policy which the advisers of the Crown intended to carry on, are we to suppose that unless something unforeseen has taken place since then, these gentlemen would have resigned on account of causes which existed at the very time they put that language into the mouth of the representative of the Crown? We are indeed told by the ministerial press that no extraordinary event has taken place since that time, but that these gentlemen have tendered their resignations on account of reasons which existed long before Parliament was called. Again, I assume that some very extraordinary event must have taken place since the opening of Parliament. It is true that the ministerial press has given us an event extraordinary in its character, which, however, did not affect the whole Cabinet, but affected only two members of the Administration. It is true, as has been stated in the press, that a member of the Administration had charged one of his colleagues with having anonymously slandered him to His Excellency the Governor General, had carried on investigations behind his back, although they were sitting all the time at the same table in Council, and that under such circumstances there was something to be investigated against those two gentlemen. Well, this is an extraordinary