

about to join, and he had too high an opinion of him to think that he would abandon his own views for that purpose. The House was therefore driven to the conclusion that the policy on Banking and Currency must have formed the subject of discussion at the time the new members were introduced into the Government, and he considered the House was entitled to the fullest explanations as to those negotiations. Another important point upon which he desired explanation was one that bore on the foundations of the Government upon party divisions. He referred to that involved in the appointment of the member for South Lanark. Everyone knew that this Government was formed in 1867 by a coalition, in which Ontario was to be represented by three Reformers and two Conservatives. That basis had been adhered to down to a recent period. The appointment of Mr. Morris who had been a life-long Conservative, had, however, reversed the order of things in the Government, which now consisted of three Conservatives and two Reformers, one of whom who still claimed to be a Reformer, although report said that he took a different view before his constituents. He (Hon. Mr. Holton) was glad to see by a letter before his signature that he was still a Reformer. He considered that the House ought to know why the compact of 1867 had been set aside. The gentlemen opposite held their seats by virtue of that compact, which had enabled them to gain their present position and retain it so long, and every member of the House was entitled to know why it had been broken, why the basis of the coalition had been departed from. It had been stated that the hon. member for North Lanark, who was one of the architects of the compact, was a consenting party to his abrogation. He (Hon. Mr. Holton) confessed he was astounded when he read that statement. The hon. gentleman was himself present, and the House was entitled to the fullest explanation on this point. There was another point. He would be obliged if the Government would state the precise period when the member for North Lanark tendered his resignation as Minister of Public Works. His successor, Mr. Langevin, was gazetted, but that gazette does not even state the fact of Mr. McDougall's resignation. It would be interesting to the House to know precisely at what period he ceased to be an officer of the Government.

Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald quite agreed with the course the hon. gentleman had taken. It had been felt expedient that before the House proceeded to any business, the relations of the Government should be entered into, and, therefore, he would meet the hon. gentleman's wishes. He did not know that he could give explanations that would be satisfactory to the

nir tous les renseignements disponibles sur ces pourparlers. Une autre question importante qu'il veut éclaircir porte sur le fait que le Gouvernement repose sur la division des partis. Il fait allusion à celle qui a été provoquée par la nomination du député de Lanark-Sud. Chacun sait que le Gouvernement a été formé en 1867 à la suite d'une coalition et que l'Ontario devait y être représenté par trois réformistes et deux conservateurs. Cette composition a été respectée jusqu'à récemment, mais la nomination de M. Morris, qui a toujours été conservateur, a renversé la structure du Gouvernement qui se compose maintenant de deux réformistes et de trois conservateurs dont l'un prétend être encore réformiste bien que, selon la rumeur, il ait adopté des vues différentes en face de ses commettants. Il (l'honorable M. Holton) est heureux de constater, à la lecture d'une lettre qu'il avait signée, que celui-ci demeurerait réformiste. Il estime que la Chambre doit connaître la raison pour laquelle l'accord de 1867 a été écarté. Celui-ci a permis aux membres de l'Opposition de conserver leur siège, d'atteindre leur position actuelle et de s'y maintenir aussi longtemps, et chaque député est en droit de connaître la raison du renoncement au principe de coalition. Selon les dires, l'honorable député de Lanark-Nord, qui a été l'un des promoteurs de cet accord, aurait consenti à son annulation; il (l'honorable M. Holton) avoue être demeuré stupéfait à la lecture de cette allégation. La présence de l'honorable député permet à la Chambre d'obtenir tous les renseignements nécessaires afin d'élucider cette affaire. Il reste un autre point à éclaircir: il serait reconnaissant au Gouvernement si celui-ci faisait connaître la date précise à laquelle le député de Lanark-Nord a démissionné en tant que ministre des Travaux publics. La nomination de son successeur, M. Langevin, a été annoncée dans le journal officiel, mais celui-ci ne fait nullement état de la démission de M. McDougall. La Chambre aurait tout avantage à connaître à quel moment il a cessé d'être officier du Gouvernement.

L'honorable sir John A. Macdonald approuve entièrement la conduite de l'honorable député. Il importe d'examiner les relations du Gouvernement avant que la Chambre ne passe à l'ordre du jour, pour ainsi satisfaire aux désirs de l'honorable député. Il ignore si ses explications suffiront à convaincre l'honorable député, car celui-ci se montre parfois trop

[Hon. Mr. Holton—L'hon. M. Holton.]