

"so, he must first dismiss his Ministry, which would imply a conviction of their guilt. His Excellency, however, had expressly requested that there should be no formal publication of his reply until he had delivered it in writing. Mr. *Cunningham* had stated to His Excellency that the deputation considered that the prorogation would be an infringement of the privileges of Parliament, but that point, of course, His Excellency did not discuss.

Mr. *Cunningham* (Manitoba) said that when His Excellency spoke of dismissing his Ministers, he (Mr. C.) stated that the ninety-three Members who had signed the memorial considered that the accusations against the Ministry were before the House of Commons, not before His Excellency; and that until they were brought before him, he had no right to issue a Commission or to take any other step in connection with them.

Messrs. *Burpee* and *Church* confirmed these statements.

Mr. *Paquet* also added that His Excellency had made an exposure of facts exactly as they had been made in the Ministerial journals; and had said nothing but what had been said there, except that the advice he was going to adopt was given by his advisers unanimously. He had also remarked, that it was impossible for Parliament to proceed to business, since, in consequence of the understanding arrived at neither the Members from Manitoba, nor those from British Columbia, were present; and he was answered by pointing to Mr. *Cunningham*, and by the assurance that Manitoba was fully represented. There was, however, no difficulty about seeing on which side His Excellency leaned.

Hon. Mr. *Cauchon* said that although at the end of the meeting of the House, Mr. *McKenzie* had invited those opposed to prorogation to assemble here, he understood there were numbers on the other side who would have gladly been here to protest against the course pursued; but, that they were afraid of their party. He disclaimed the idea that this was in any way a party meeting. (Hear, hear.) Every Member had been invited to be present, and act in unison on the subject. They would all get a fair hearing, and might express themselves as they felt. (Cheers.) In whatever way the meeting might decide, the feelings of all would be respected. (Applause.)

Mr. *Laflamme*, who was loudly called for, said he did not think it his place to address them on the subject; it was more fitting that older politicians should do it. All must feel the outrage which had been perpetrated. (Hear, hear.) It was no question of party. The question now was, whether free government, and free enquiry, really existed, such as they well knew was embraced within the British Constitution. On this account, the question being so vast and important, he should leave it to older politicians than himself to discuss. He denied that the Committee could not proceed with the investigation, and affirmed that neither the people nor their representatives would submit to being deprived of the rights, liberties and privileges which belonged to them as British subjects. (Applause.) As far as he knew, a Royal Commission was altogether unnecessary, as the question before them was one which involved the purity of Parliament. As he had before said, this was a proper subject for the older members to discuss. As for himself, he had to-day felt like a Frenchman, as his blood fairly got up at the outrage and insult which had been perpetrated on the people and their representatives. (Hear, hear.) He should defer from further speaking in order to make way for the leader. (Cries of *Blake* and *McKenzie*.)

Mr. *Blake* urged that it would be well that Mr. *McKenzie's* speech, which had been so rudely interrupted in the House, should first be completed.

Mr. *McKenzie* said he had so much difficulty in the House in offering his motion, he had almost lost his voice. In addition to what Messrs. *Cauchon* and *Laflamme* had said he would remark that ninety-four Members of the House had signed the memorial of remonstrance to the Governor General. (Applause—A voice, "It is now ninety-five!") In addition to those who had thus declared themselves, there were numbers of Conservatives who felt just as strongly as they did, that this prorogation was an improper act under existing circumstances. If they had not signed this petition of