

the duty of Parliament to investigate such reports, then it has its work cut out for it; there is no end of the work that will be provided for us. For my part, I dissent in toto from any such proposition, and on reflection the leader of the opposition will admit that he has advanced a proposition which cannot be accepted by any one in this House. It is to me a source of legitimate pride, and I think it will be so accepted not only in the ranks of the Conservative party but by every dispassionate thinker in this House, that the hon. ministers of the Cabinet who felt it their duty to retire from the government did so on a grave constitutional question and not in any sense on a personal one. I go further; I say that it is in the highest degree disrespectful not only to the government, but to the representative of Her Majesty, to suppose that the statement which we have just heard cannot be accepted as true. The hon. gentleman said he doubted that the people of this country would accept as true the statement now presented. In giving utterance to that expression, I think he exceeded slightly the legitimate criticisms which might be expected from the leader of the opposition. I say the statement must be accepted as true, and I repeat it is a source of satisfaction to me as a Conservative, and it must be a source of gratification to every right-minded man, that it was not due to a matter of pique, but to a constitutional issue. It is true, after the resignations, comments were made on all sides which would lead one to suppose that the reasons for dissent were wider than people had at first been led to suppose. I once more congratulate the leader of the Senate on the fact that the difficulty has been solved in a manner creditable to him as the Premier. I believe his explanation will be accepted by the country in preference to the conjectures of the leader of the opposition. As a Conservative, I rejoice over the accession to the government of a gentleman of world-wide reputation and life-long experience as a Canadian politician, and we ought to feel it a cause of legitimate pride to all of us that he has agreed to accept a subordinate position in the remodelled Cabinet. Coming from the province of Quebec, I am pleased to observe the acceptance of a Cabinet portfolio by the Hon. Mr. Desjardins, who is rightly referred to in the statement just now read,

as being well and favourably known in the province of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. POWER.—The hon. gentleman from the Kennebec division has rather more of the Nathaniel about him than I had supposed. The hon. gentleman was under the impressions that the reason given on the floor of Parliament for changes in the government, which had taken place in connection with the reconstruction of the Cabinet, are to be taken literally as they are read. They are officially true, but they do not generally tell the whole truth. We have to accept them, just as when a man says to his neighbour, "as a Christian I forgive you," but one feels, like the man in the story, that there is no forgiveness at all—the First Minister's statement is a statement which gives us no information. We do not contradict—we have to accept the statement made by the First Minister, although we may think that there are a great many things which would have been very interesting which the statement has not disclosed. I think that every hon. gentleman, even the hon. member from the Kennebec division, will feel that the statement which we have had from the First Minister to-day is not at all the statement which we were led to expect from the observations made by the hon. the First Minister on the last occasion when he discussed the question of his difference with his colleagues. I suppose under ordinary circumstances we should be contented with hearing the statement of the First Minister and the very few observations made by the hon. leader of the opposition, but I presume that even the First Minister feels that we have been tried severely during the past few days. We have had very interesting events taking place under our eyes, and have been, in a certain sense, compelled to hold our tongues; and naturally we feel like saying something now when the tension is over. In the first place, speaking for myself (and I think that I voice the sentiments of the gentlemen—very few I regret to say in this House—whose political views are the same as my own) when I congratulate the First Minister upon the net result of the past few days. The hon. gentleman has been for several months now, the captain of the ship of state, and a mutiny has taken place on board of that ship, unprecedented in character—such a mutiny has never taken place on board the ship of