

to help him in re-forming the Government if it can be re-formed. I think that the only question that is left for the House to consider is whether the delay I have asked from to-day until three o'clock on Tuesday is an unreasonable delay. If it is an unreasonable delay it should not be granted. But I claim that, under the circumstances the delay which I have asked is more for the convenience of the members, while at the same time it will facilitate the work of the Premier by not putting him to the necessity of attending his parliamentary duties, but will allow him to go to work and ascertain, as well as is possible in that short time, whether he can reconstruct the Government or not. These, Mr. Speaker, are really the reasons why the delay is asked. The hon. gentleman has criticised the conduct of the Government in filling the vacancies which have occurred. I think that the Government were acting within their constitutional rights in filling vacancies and in carrying on the public business. The hon. gentleman knows that last session the Premier pledged himself to the House that these vacancies should be filled at the very beginning of the next—that is the present—session. For this reason, and in any case, the strictly constitutional duty as well as the undoubted right of the Government was to fill these vacancies. The Government has not ceased to be an advisory and executive body; it has not abdicated any of the privileges which it possessed previous to the crisis which has taken place. The hon. gentleman has referred to the statement made by the Premier yesterday that he hoped to-day to be able to give information in reference to the filling of the vacant portfolios. I think he has lost no time, he has shown how much in earnest he was in the promise he made to Parliament; for, ever since yesterday he has been in communication with His Excellency, and the result of these communications has been the statement which I have laid before you.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I had the honour last night to attend a sitting of the Senate and to listen to the official statement made by the leader of the Government there, and I am somewhat disappointed that the promise he then made in most equivocal language has not been implemented. I would like to know if the same statement read by the hon. leader of the House has been read by the Premier in the Senate.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yes, exactly the same.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I can hardly conceive, after the language the hon. Premier used last night—language used with great care and twice repeated—that he would positively make a statement with reference to filling up of the vacancies in the Government, how he could make a statement such as the hon. gentleman has read to this

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

House. There is no denying that that statement as read to this House alters the course which probably the Opposition would see fit to take upon this occasion. But I challenge, just at this moment, the correctness of two observations made by my hon. friend opposite (Sir Adolphe Caron). One was with respect to the construction he put upon the language by my hon. leader. I did not understand my leader to say that the purpose of asking the House to adjourn was to enable a conspiracy to be entered into with respect to the formation of a Government, but that the result of such adjournment would be to enable conspirators to carry out their designs. There is no one on either side of the House who doubts that there is at the present moment a vast conspiracy on foot to oust the present leader from his position and to prevent this House meeting to give an answer to the speech with which His Excellency opened the session. I have met no one in the House or out of it who doubts that such is the case. The men can be named, their names are mentioned in the daily press; the means they are taking to conspire, the persons they are using to carry out the conspiracy and to attain the object they have in view are well known. Nothing could be further from the thoughts of the hon. leader of the Opposition than that His Excellency or any one connected with him was a party to this object of this conspiracy. But what the hon. gentleman did say—and I do not know how the leader of the House could have misunderstood it—was that the result of this extended adjournment would be to give aid and comfort to these conspirators and to enable them to complete their nefarious work.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Well, Sir, "nefarious work" is a very strong expression to use, but I think that the circumstances quite justify it. This is not an attempt made by an organized Opposition to defeat the existing Government in a proper way. Why, Sir, we all welcome that, there is not a man on either side of the House but likes a fair, open fight. What is despised, and what ought to be looked down upon, is the attempt of those within the family circle to conspire against and to defeat their own leader and their own friends. There is another remark which fell from the hon. gentleman—passing from that branch of the subject entirely—which I would challenge; and I wish to observe that I am confining my remarks merely to the length the adjournment should take, and not discussing the many subjects to which I had hoped to call the attention of the House to-day. There is another observation which he made, and which I think on reflection he will see has not been well considered, and that is that it is for the convenience of members that this adjournment should take