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LAURIER MISSED IT
Sir A. P. Caron and Hon. Mr. Ouimet Make Statements in the House.

They are Now in Full Accord With the Government on the Manitoba School Question.

Mr. Weldon of Albert Declares That He Will Not Support Remedial Legislation When Introduced.

The Government Sustained by Thirty-four Majority, Only Seven Conservatives Voting With the Liberals.

Ottawa, July 13.—The political situation, if anything, is more interesting than yesterday. There was an exciting half hour in the house this afternoon, but for another day at least the public will be deprived of an official announcement respecting the situation and the reasons which have led to it.

On the orders of the hon. minister in the commons, Mr. Laurier rose and said: "I now renew the question which I put last evening to my hon. friend with regard to the resignation of certain members of the administration."

Hon. Mr. Foster.—Mr. Speaker—All that I can say to my hon. friend and to the house is that I have not any authority from his excellency the governor general to make a statement other than this, that no resignations have as yet been received by him.

Mr. Laurier.—Well, Mr. Speaker, I hardly believe that statement just made by my hon. friend can be satisfactory to the house. Whether certain members of the administration have placed their resignations in the hands of his excellency or not, I assume this is not the case, since the hon. gentleman says he is not at liberty to say so, but whether the fact is official or unofficial, there can be no doubt whatever we are in the midst of a ministerial crisis. His excellency the governor general is here. His excellency has cancelled a trip which had been announced for some time in advance, which was looked forward to and expected with great pleasure in that part of the country which his excellency has not yet visited. This in itself is sufficient to show the house that there is a crisis, and moreover there are two seats vacant, the two seats vacant yesterday. Though the hon. gentleman who occupied those seats may not have handed officially their resignations to his excellency, it is quite evident that they are not longer in harmony with their colleagues, otherwise they would be in their places to discharge their share of the government's business. There is another fact. Another gentleman who occupied a place in the administration, and who sat in another house has not been in his seat yesterday, and in his seat today. Under such circumstances again I say that it would be simply trifling with the house for the hon. gentleman to say that we are not in the presence of a great crisis. I don't know, and I don't care, what the present time, what stage it has reached, but at all events here is the fact: In our system of government in federal system in government we have, as has been the unwritten law of all administrations that all provinces, so far as practicable should be represented in the cabinet. No administration would care to consent to discharge the public business of the country unless all the provinces, at any rate, all the great provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, are properly represented in the cabinet, and when it is known that at the present time three of the ministers who represent the province, three of these gentlemen who represent a great portion of the population of this country, are out of the cabinet at the present time, whether officially or unofficially, is a practical out of the cabinet. I say we are not only in the midst of a great political crisis, but we are confronted with a position unprecedented in the history of Canada, where the government would undertake to go on and carry on the business of the country

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one great province, the second in the dominion being unrepresented in the cabinet. (Opposition cheers.) I do say to my hon. friend that the position is altogether unprecedented. Now, if my hon. friend were to call in a new administration, if a new administration were to be formed by himself or any one else, no prime minister would dare to come to this house and ask parliament to transact the business of the country with one great province altogether unrepresented in the cabinet. (Opposition cheers.)

The government has no right to ask parliament for a single penny for the administration of the government and I conceive that there is nothing else to do but to adjourn this house and to give the government an opportunity of either filling the vacancies that exist or being prepared to advise his excellency as to the condition that exists. Because, sir, I don't conceive that the hon. gentleman can allow the chief magistrate of the nation, the representative of the Queen, not to be properly advised that there is a political crisis. His excellency has not received the resignations of his ministers, but three of his ministers at all events are not here to discharge the business which his excellency intrusted to them, and for this reason I move, Mr. Speaker, that the house now adjourn. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. Foster was received with loud cheers by supporters of the government. He said: The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, if he did not start with this, closely followed his opening remarks with the statement that he would witness a proceeding unprecedented, or a state of things unprecedented in the history of the government of this country. I am quite willing to admit with him that this phrase was well chosen, although I would apply it in a different way from the application in which he evidently meant it should be made. I say it is a thing unprecedented in the parliamentary history of this country that an hon. gentleman leading her majesty's opposition should, on the strength of mere rumor, (derisive laughter from opposition benches) newspaper or common rumor, should make an explicit statement to the house, and then have taken any other action seemed to him in the premises. But, sir, he chose another position, and in doing that he made a brave charge and followed that up by a serious motion. I must state he has put himself in the position of taking a stand which is certainly unprecedented in the parliamentary history of Canada. Sir, he leaped to a conclusion from a newspaper rumor that because there were vacant seats in the ministerial benches, that therefore the members who formerly were in those seats, and whom he would like to see there now, were no longer members of the government, no longer in union or harmony with the government. And he leaped from that conclusion to a still broader conclusion, that one of the provinces of the dominion was totally unrepresented, and that therefore the house could not proceed with its business. He was wrong in both. He has not the slightest foundation or authority for taking the position he did, and he could only have taken that position upon an authoritative statement made by consent of his excellency the governor general to this house. He is curiously inaccurate in his statement even though his assumptions were warranted by facts to the extent which his enquiry were, because he must remember that the province of Quebec has several representatives and that if, even he were correct in basing upon the fact that which he has based upon rumor, he must still recollect that the province of Quebec has members in the cabinet with whose names rumor has not been busy, and in reference to whom he has no right, even upon the basis of rumor, to make a statement before the house. He went on to state the doctrine that if it ever happened in the government of this country that any one of its provinces was for the

time being unrepresented in the cabinet, that therefore there was no constitutional right, or at least by unwritten law, there was no right by custom or the government to base the government's action upon it. It merely needs that I state to show its untenable character, and I imagine that in cooler moments and when not acting under the excitement which is evidently pressing upon my hon. friend, just now (laughter) he would not attempt to maintain that either as good constitutional doctrine or as good statesmanship.

Sir, I have no intention of carrying on this discussion further. I have no intention of following my hon. friend on his devious pathway of rumor of what he may have heard; of what may have been in due course of time I shall be able to make an authoritative statement under the leadership of my hon. friend, possessing his soul in patience in the meantime, to accept the situation as he has so often had to do on previous occasions. (Cheers and laughter.)

After observations from Mr. Mills (Bothwell), Sir Hector Langevin said: I agree with the statement made by the leader of the opposition about the composition of a government in Canada. I agree that the large provinces such as Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick should be represented properly in the government, and that is what we have seen for the last twenty years and more. At this moment we see two seats on the treasury benches vacant. The question is not whether the seats are vacant, what is the reason of these seats not being occupied. The leader of the house says he is not in a position to give an answer to that question now. Those seats have been vacant since yesterday. This is the second time that the leader of the opposition says that under these circumstances the government have no right to proceed with the business of the house because the province of Quebec, so far as those two seats are concerned, is not represented. Well, sir, I do not think it is a member of this house who would more than I ask that my province should be represented in the government. I hope that province is now represented in the government and if it is not now represented I have no objection in seeking the subsidies for the railway company that I should adjourn the house to vote non-confidence in the government which I have supported from the beginning of the session. If the leader of the house comes down with a statement about those vacant seats and says that he will support a motion made by the hon. leader of the opposition, (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Dupon, speaking in French, repeated Sir Hector Langevin's statements. The house then divided. Mr. Laurier's motion to adjourn was negatived by 111 to 72.

Mr. Lepine, member for Montreal east, was the only conservative who voted against the government. Several government measures were advanced a stage and then the house took recess.

Several other government measures were advanced a stage up to six o'clock. The evening session was spent in committee on the criminal code.

Mr. Edger's proposed amendment in respect to political subscriptions by railway directors was not proceeded with.

The amendment embodying the newspaper clause of Mr. Charlton's Sunday Observance bill was defeated by 28 to 58. The committee rose and reported progress.

On the motion to adjourn, Mr. Richard Cartwright remarked: "Well, let us know tomorrow whether the fatted calf is to be killed or otherwise."

Mr. McCarthy said: "I would suggest to my hon. friend the minister of justice, that it would be very convenient if the answer to the remedial order was brought down. I think it has not yet been brought down."

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper—I shall bring the matter to the attention of the government tomorrow.

The British parliament, and our parliament when a crisis arises that both houses are taken into the confidence of the government.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell—The hon. gentleman is quite correct as to the parliamentary and constitutional practice of a question of this kind. I am not, I am sorry to say, in a position to relieve the tension of the hon. gentleman's mind at the present moment, but I promise him that there is no doubt I shall be able to relieve him of all anxiety as to the matter tomorrow at three o'clock.

In the commons Mr. Laurier said: "I would now ask the minister of finance whether he can give any information to the house today with regard to the resignations of three members of the administration."

Mr. Foster—Mr. Speaker, I think I will have to ask my hon. friend to cultivate the virtue of patience for a little while longer. Tomorrow when the house assembles I shall make a positive statement in reference to the resignations.

The South Shore railway company's bill was finally reported by the railway committee this morning after another two hours discussion. At the public accounts committee this morning Hon. Mr. Costigan repeated his statement of yesterday, that when the dominion subsidies were granted to the Tobique Valley Railway Company and rearranged, he had in mind the property in the hands of the company. In 1890 a gypsum property on the line was offered him for \$2,500, and was accepted. This property was about one hundred acres in extent. Except for one or two other tracts of property in the vicinity all the rest of the gypsum land was held under lease from the provincial government of New Brunswick by a local company in which Mr. Costigan was not interested.

Mr. Costigan said that he had no objection in seeking the subsidies for the railway company that I should adjourn the house to vote non-confidence in the government which I have supported from the beginning of the session. If the leader of the house comes down with a statement about those vacant seats and says that he will support a motion made by the hon. leader of the opposition, (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Dupon, speaking in French, repeated Sir Hector Langevin's statements.

The house spent most of the day discussing the railway bill. The house adjourned at 10.30.

In the senate on the third reading of the bill to amend the law respecting the lobster fishery, Mr. Power advanced an amendment compelling the lobster packers to put their names and addresses, together with the year of packing, on all cans. The amendment was defeated on a vote of 9 to 28. The French treaty passed on division, July 11.

Ottawa, July 11.—The speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock. On motion of Hon. Mr. Foster, Mr. McLennan's bill for the branding of butter and cheese was added to the list of government orders to be considered. On the orders of the day being called.

Mr. GIBBOURD, Jacques Cartier, rose and said: I wish to bring the following question to the attention of the hon. minister of justice: Will the negotiations to be entered into with Manitoba relating to the schools, unless they bring in an acceptable arrangement in the lines of the remedial order in the interests of the minority and jeopardizing the settlement of the question. (Hear, hear, and opposition laughter.) This induces me to continue to act with the government as secure as I believe, remedial legislation in accordance with the pledges given by the premier and by the leader of the house. (Loud cheers. Opposition cries of "Next, next.")

was nothing to be hoped for from the action of the Manitoba government and legislature itself. I need not reiterate the position of the government. That was shown in the statement I made the other day in this house. Both those positions were taken in that statement. The one that we would grant to Manitoba a certain amount of time in the hope that negotiations would be entered into and an amicable settlement of this question arrived at. The other was that in so intricate and important a question the greatest deliberation was necessary in the perfecting of legislation in the matter and that no remedial legislation should be introduced this session. Those differences of opinion were canvassed by the different members of the government. I regret to say that one of our colleagues who has not a seat in this house finds it impossible to accede to the view of the majority of the government, while still holding very firmly and strongly to his view that the remedial order should be undertaken and pressed to a conclusion at once. As he finds it impossible to accede to the view of the majority in that respect, his resignation has not only been sent in, but accepted, and he is no longer a member of this government. I regret to say.

With reference to our two colleagues from the province of Quebec who had seats in this house, I must say that they showed a disposition to canvass the subject and look thoroughly into the grounds of difference between their own views and the views of the majority of their colleagues, as expressed in the statement I made the other day in this house, and in the end these differences proved to be rather a misunderstanding than a real divergence of opinion. (Ironical laughter from the opposition.) As regards the principles that were involved, I am glad to say that they were not in disagreement as to details. As to the question of principle that remedial legislation was necessary and that it would be introduced by this government at the next session of parliament, that was called before the end of January, in the event of the province of Manitoba not making a reasonable and satisfactory settlement of the question, it was a matter of divergence of opinion upon principles. On the principle all were agreed. All members of the cabinet stood side by side with my two hon. friends upon my left, and my hon. friends upon my right, and patriotically, I believe, acted in accordance with the understanding or a disagreement, simply upon details, and they have been able to come to the conclusion that in the statement which was made on Monday last by me, remedial legislation was actually and positively promised, and that there is no variability of shadow of turning so far (ironical, hear, hear, from the opposition)—that quotation in the special benefit of my hon. friend from Norfolk. (Mr. Charlton.) There is no intention at all of going one single jot outside of that statement, but to carry out in perfect good faith the statement of the government in this way. I have no objection to that conclusion, my two hon. friends, the postmaster general and the minister of public works, have believed it to be their duty which they owe to their party, their country, and their constituents, that they themselves have deeply at heart, to work in harmony with their former and present colleagues, and that we should stand together and carry out the policy of the government in this way. I know that it is necessary for me to make any further remarks at present and my honorable friend I know is anxious to take the floor and make sundry and various observations. (Cheers.)

SIR ADOLPHE CARON
on rising to speak was greeted with loud applause. He said: Mr. Speaker, I have very little indeed to add to what has just been said by the leader of the house. The question as I view it, is one of the gravest that parliament has been called upon to consider since confederation. Believing, as I do, that minorities must be protected by the constitution and being anxious for the settlement of the school question after repeated interviews, and to my mind satisfactory assurances from the premier and from my colleagues, I consider that the government, by refusing to help the government in carrying out remedial legislation upon the lines of the judgment of the privy council and of the remedial order in council, I would have been siding with the interests of the minority and jeopardizing the settlement of the question. (Hear, hear, and opposition laughter.) This induces me to continue to act with the government as secure as I believe, remedial legislation in accordance with the pledges given by the premier and by the leader of the house. (Loud cheers. Opposition cries of "Next, next.")

HON. MR. OUMET
was greeted with loud cheers and counted cheers in rising. Speaking in French he said: I do not think I need add much to what has been said by my colleagues. I must say, nevertheless, that if I am at this moment occupying the seat which I formerly held, it is solely due to my sense of the duty which I owe to my country, to my party and especially to the cause, the success of which I have so much at heart. If I am here it is because I have become convinced after the repeated assurances which my colleagues have given us, and the warm sympathy which has been shown us by all our friends, that in delaying the settlement of this question we are thereby rendering the more sure its settlement in a definite manner, and in a manner perfectly satisfactory to the country and to all those who desire to see justice done, who love peace and who are devoted to the well-being of their compatriots. (Cheers.) I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that if I have ever had a duty to fulfill, the importance of which and also the painful character of which I feel and understand, it is that which I am fulfilling today and in which I may appear, perhaps, in the eyes of the public as

sacrificing for our own personal interests something of the interests of my country. However, Mr. Speaker, I am above all that. I am above the accusations which will be levelled against me in the province of Quebec and elsewhere. I am prepared to endure those attacks in the hope that we will have our reply in six months, in the session which will be held on the 3rd of January next. In the course of those six months I should be covered with opprobrium and insult instead of being covered with flowers and greeted as a hero, I console myself with the hope that this question will then be acted and that I will have not only the consolation, but the happiness of being able to say to my compatriots that if I today have yielded a little in what regards my personal dignity, I have done so in the interests of my country and of those I represent in this house. (Cheers.)

MR. LAURIER
rose and was received with opposition cheers. Mr. Speaker—Do I understand that the hon. minister of public works to move the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Oumet—No. Mr. Laurier—I move the adjournment of the house. Once upon a time, Mr. Speaker, not very long ago, in a country which I need not name, there was a person prevalent that the "cat came back" to the cream. (Cheers.) Feline nature will assert itself and today we have a small family of kittens coming back to the premier. Only a few days ago they started upon what they represented to be a crusade for a holy cause, but after three days experienced in the cold, far from the kitchen, exposed to the inclemency of the season, they have come back to the cream. And at once I must tender my apologies to my hon. friend from East York (McLean) that a gentleman in his paper, the Toronto World, two days ago had a paragraph, which read as follows: "The French ministers said to have resigned, but the resignation are not confirmed and may be a bluff. I confess, Mr. Speaker, that having French blood, and only French blood, in my veins, that when I saw that statement made concerning my French fellow members, who represented the majority of this house, in the cabinet that their game was only a game of bluff, I could not help feeling indignant against the hon. member for East York. I must offer my apologies for that feeling of indignation. If this was not a game of bluff, what was it? It was simply a misunderstanding my hon. friend says. There was only a misunderstanding during these three days in which the country has been kept in suspense. We had supposed there was a grave crisis. We had supposed that a deep chasm existed between the hon. gentlemen who had thrown up their portfolios and the majority of the cabinet. But it was simply a misunderstanding. The members of the cabinet had been sitting together and discussing the questions before them not for days only, but for weeks, and I may say for months. And the more they discussed with a view to a settlement the less they understood of another. But one section it so happened remained inside and the other side remained outside in the cold. That cleared their understanding and convinced them that there was nothing between them but a very little fog over. What is the misunderstanding? I understood that the policy of the government had been laid down on Monday last by the minister of finance. There is an announcement there would be some legislation introduced to give satisfaction to the minority.

I understand that this was binding upon the government, and if I had been member of the cabinet, I would have been disposed to take this as a pledge binding upon the administration. But, sir, if I am to accept an interview which was published in the Montreal Star yesterday my hon. friend, the minister of public works for one, and I suppose my hon. friend, the postmaster general, also were not satisfied with the pledge given upon the honor of the crown by the gentlemen who were the representatives of the crown. This is what appears in the Montreal Star yesterday in the form of a solemn interview with the minister of public works. The finance minister told me the other day—and in that only repeated what had been said before—that not much dependence was to be placed upon the utterances of ministerial newspapers. But this is an independent newspaper, and moreover, the interview has such an air of authenticity that it is difficult not to believe that it is perfectly genuine. The correspondence goes on to say: "I had an interview with the Hon. J. Oumet, minister public works, this morning. He looked in splendid fighting trim." (Great laughter.) I may say, this seems to be authentic enough. This would not be disputed. "Seated in his library with Hon. J. Royal, ex. lieutenant governor of the N. W. Territories, and Mr. Jonas, M. P., who had just finished breakfast with him." Dr. Montague—What did he have for breakfast? Mr. Laurier—These details give an additional character of veracity to the narrative. He said: "You may announce through the Star that unless the government at three o'clock this afternoon brings in a written pledge signed by every minister, agreeing to remedial legislation next session, I will take my seat as an independent member and move a want of confidence motion."

This language referred to yesterday, but yesterday my hon. friend did not appear in his seat; today, however, he