

country would have to take the consequences. He was anxious that the House should give him a fair opportunity of forming an Administration and of expressing their policy. He would ask that the question be put that the writ issue.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD said he wished to move an amendment.

Mr. BLAKE rose to order; the hon. gentleman had spoken.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD moved an amendment, seconded by Hon. Mr. Richards,

That the said motion be amended by adding the following words after the word "province": "but while this House cheerfully agrees to the motion for the issue of a writ for the election of a member to represent the riding of West Middlesex, it cannot but regard the appointment of the hon. member for South Bruce to a seat in the Executive Council of this Province, as announced by himself in his place in this House, without a portfolio, thereby increasing the number of the said Council beyond that prescribed by the 63rd section of the Act of Confederation, and before such increase is sanctioned by legislative authority, as an infraction of the constitution and a violation of the rights of the people of this Province."

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD admitted that some of the observations made by the hon. member for South Bruce were to a certain extent cogent and reasonable. He wished to ask the House what excuse the hon. gentleman could offer; if the hon. gentleman desired to change the constitution, why did he not come down to the House and ask for the necessary authority. But the hon. gentleman, instead of doing so, came and asked for a vote of credit before making those appointments. He (Mr. Macdonald) would be the last person to oppose such a vote under proper circumstances. It was not for the hon. gentleman to attempt to steal a march upon the House in that way. No case had been quoted by the hon. gentleman which was at all to the point; the Nova Scotian Constitution was different; and he said it was a most dangerous principle to establish that the hon. gentleman had power to nominate himself an outside member of the Government, while his friends took charge of the departments. Why did not the hon. gentleman take one of the vacant portfolios and then set forth manfully his reasons for an increase in the Cabinet. It looked like a usurpation of the privileges of the House, and he declared that it was an infraction of the Constitution and a violation of the rights of the people.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said he was desirous to facilitate the formation of the Government, but he was equally desirous that no violation of the constitution should take place. There was no reason why the hon. gentleman should not be able to form a Government. He could see no analogy in the circumstances under which the Ministry of 1857 was formed. No Parliament was then in existence; an entirely new Government was being formed. But here on every hand the hon. gentleman had around him those representatives of the people, and yet said he was not going to hurry himself, and presumed to dictate to that House as the late Government had never attempted to dictate to it. If the hon. gentlemen was not in a position to form a Ministry now, he ought to tell His Excellency so and leave him free to call upon other hon. members to form a Government. He (Mr. Cameron) had not contended that as a matter of law the Lieut.-Governor had not the right to call to his council persons to advise him, but they would be different from executive councillors. His Excellency might appoint advisers who would not be responsible to that House, and who might not even have seats in that House, but there was no analogy in the cases. Another matter to be considered was this, that His Excellency, before nominating any such persons must have the consent of his duly constituted advisers, that was of a Ministry having the confidence of the House. Such were to be appointed by His Excellency with the advice of his Executive Council. That was the position which he (Mr. Cameron) took. He was prepared to consent to an adjournment of the House for a week or longer to allow the hon. member to form a Ministry, but how it came about that he who was so anxious to cross over to the Treasury Bench should not be prepared with the personnel of his Ministry could not be explained. He was prepared to give the hon. gentleman a vote of credit, even before he and his colleagues had a right to sit in the House—if he had a Ministry. But the House wanted to know what policy these hon. gentlemen were going to explain to their constituents. A Ministry was always founded on some policy. The present course of the hon. gentleman was well suited to allowing him to go to different constituencies and tell them different stories of what he intended doing—promising aid to railways in one county, and condemning it in another. The hon. gentleman's course was not manly nor straight forward.

Mr. CURRIE said that the hon. member for Bruce had not said that he intended to have more than five Ministers in his Cabinet. (Laughter.) The Confederation Act did not provide, according to his reading, that there should be only five members in the Cabinet.

Dr. BOULTER did not wish to take advantage of the hon. member for Bruce but thought he should have told how many members he proposed having in his Cabinet. He was departing from law and usage in having more than five. If he wished the House could be adjourned to allow the hon. gentleman time.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. McCALL said it was evident that the member had, without asking the advice and authority, gone beyond the provision of the Confederation Act respecting the number of ministers. He regretted this state of things had occurred. He would like the hon. member for Corwa to withdraw his motion although the hon. member for Bruce had not consulted the House in reference to the formation of his Cabinet, nor had he explained his policy.

Mr. BLAKE again explained that it was his intention to have five heads of Departments as heretofore, and in addition that he should himself be a member of the Executive Council without any office. It was not the intention to increase the powers of the Executive.

Mr. SEXTON said that his reading of the Confederation Act was that there should in the first place be five Ministers, heads of department that there might be more but not less.

Mr. CLARKE (Grenville) said it had occurred to him that there might be an element of unfairness in the present motion of the member for Cornwall. He did not wish to throw any obstruction in the way of the formation of a new Cabinet, but would rather wait till the hon. gentleman announced his policy. He would therefore vote against the amendment.

Mr. MACDONALD (Leeds) expressed the same views and intention.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said that he believed the hon. member for South Bruce was violating the spirit of the Confederation Act. He did not mean to say that there might not be a necessity or advisability of increasing the number of Ministers, but the sanction of the House must first be obtained. He was free to admit that numerically the old Government was weak, but the law of the country must be supported. He should have thought that the hon. member should have found it easy to form a Ministry of his party. He was willing to allow him to adjourn the House for a reasonable time, but he objected to the vacancies in the Ministry being left open, as the elections being hurried on in the meantime.

Mr. DEROCHE expressed his intention of voting with the hon. member for Bruce as he wished to give him fair play.

Mr. BLAKE contended that both precedent and law were in favor of the position which he assumed on this occasion. He did not believe that the affairs of the House could be carried on properly by the Government with less than six members.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD said that he had often stood alone on the floor of Parliament within the last thirty years, and was not prepared to abandon his opinion now. It he was wrong, he was not the first man who had been. He desired to enter his protest on this the earliest and the proper time. He and his colleagues had carried on the Government for the past four years with only five members.

Mr. BLAKE—To the dissatisfaction of the country.

Mr. MACDONALD said he was willing to leave the record of his Government to posterity.

The amendment was then put to vote and lost—yeas 12, nays 59; and Mr. Blake's motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. BLAKE then moved for the issue of new writs for Bothwell, Mr. McKellar having accepted the office of Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, and for West Toronto, Mr. Crooks having accepted the office of Attorney-General. Carried.

VOTE OF CREDIT.

The SPEAKER then read a message from His Excellency accompanying the estimate of certain sums required for the service of the Province under the estimates of 1872 are passed, and recommended them to the House.

Mr. BLAKE moved the first form resolution of supply, namely, the consideration of His Excellency's speech for to-morrow. Carried.

FORMING A MINISTRY.

Mr. BLAKE said that if he had erred in judgment it was in communicating his progress to the House. He had been endeavoring to proceed further during the intervals of the debate. His progress he said, had not been so great as he could have hoped, as he had been detained by answer the objections of hon. members. The supply could not be hurried through its six stages without the unanimous consent of members that he should get. He had not a confident hope, but still hope of being able to complete his arrangements for a Cabinet by to-morrow.

Mr. MACDONALD said he would be very happy to hear that. If to-morrow the hon. gentleman came down with a petition to suspend the rules of the House in reference to supply, in order to give every facility, he would not object.

Mr. RYKERT called the attention of members to the fact that petitions were in the clerk's hands waiting for proofs.

Mr. CAMERON said he regretted that the hon. member for Bruce had not in the first place told the House that he expected to have his Ministry formed to-morrow. He would have saved a great deal of observation if he had done so, because the principal objection taken to the course was that he did not intend to complete his Government at this time, but he would take a vote of credit.

Mr. BLAKE said he was proceeding as fast as his sense of duty would permit. He repeated that he had not a confident hope that he would succeed in forming a Cabinet by to-morrow.

The House adjourned at 9 o'clock.