

### **A Three Weeks' Adjournment.**

I am going to move, then, presently, for the appointment of a commission, and if the House should agree to that view, I am going to propose that the House should adjourn for three weeks, pending the investigation, and to allow the report to be received, and for various reasons.

In the first place, I do not think either side of the House can comfortably go on with business while an investigation of this kind is being held either in this House or at Osgoode Hall, or wherever it may be held.

Secondly, I do not think that the members of the Government can give their attention to the public business as they might like while such an investigation was pending, involving the honor of one of their colleagues.

These are two very good reasons, but perhaps most important of all—I, as leader of the Government, and my colleagues all share this view—do not feel that we could go on with public business while such a cloud, if I may use an easy expression like that, rests over the reputation and standing of the Government. I want to say to the country that unless our character will stand clear of reproach, above suspicion, vindicated of all such insinuations and charges as have been brought against us by the hon. member for Manitoulin, then we do not want any longer to govern this country. (Loud Ministerial applause.)

### **As Honorable Men Only.**

We will govern this country as honorable men, with characters unimpeached, or we shall not govern it at all. (Renewed applause.) We ask this House to give us every facility, and I ask my hon. friend opposite to give us every facility for the vindication of our character and reputation as members of the Government. I think every member of this House, irrespective of party, is bound to see that the matter in dispute is so settled. Every member has a stake in the honor of the House, no matter what political party he belongs to, and until this is so disposed of or settled by investigation, by the examination of the proper witnesses and by counsel, it will be in that unsettled condition in which I for one do not want to bring down any proposal to this House of any kind whatsoever.

### **A Clear Statement.**

If we have been guilty of these charges we are unworthy to sit here. We are certainly unworthy to ask hon. gentlemen in this House or the country to give us their confidence, and unworthy to bring down any measures to this House, no matter how simple. In order to facilitate this investigation we propose that the parties in this matter on both sides shall have a junior and senior counsel if they desire, and I think the House when the time comes will vote the necessary expenditures for that purpose. Whoever conducts the prosecution can elect his own junior and senior counsel. Means will be found to pay expenses of witnesses. It is a State prosecution practically. The State is bound to provide means to have that prosecution complete in all its details. We think that within three weeks the examination can be concluded and a report returned to his Honor, and under these circumstances, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I propose moving the following resolution:—

.. Moved by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. Gibson: That an humble address be presented to his Honor the Lieut.-Governor, praying that he will be graciously pleased to issue a commission to inquire into and investigate the charges of bribery set forth in