

The PREMIER: I feel I ought, perhaps, to apologise to the House for not having taken action immediately after the vote of last night; but I decline to act on impulse. I desired to fully weigh the responsibilities of the whole position, and my colleagues and I have arrived at the conclusion that, after the vote of last night—viewing it as a deliberate expression of opinion of the House on the conduct of public business, and distinctly as a vote not in any way connected with the parliamentary railways standing committee, that had been previously disposed of—viewing it as a deliberate vote, to which I emphatically attached political significance, and informed hon. members in what light it would be regarded by the Government, and seeing that we had only a majority of one, the Government will not be inclined to continue the administration of affairs at the present time. Therefore, I ask now that the House do, at its rising, adjourn till Tuesday next, with a view to giving the Government time to consider the future position.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. DAWSON (*Charters Towers*): I may say I have no objection whatever to the motion moved by the Premier.

The TREASURER: You should feel happy.

Mr. DAWSON: I do feel happy.

MEMBERS of the Opposition: Hear, hear!

Mr. DAWSON: I have no objection whatever to allowing the hon. gentleman sufficient time to consider the position of the Government. But I thought he had had sufficient time, before making the statement this afternoon, to consider what he was going to do. I suppose, however, that when we meet again he will make a statement of his intentions.

The PREMIER: Merely make an announcement.

Mr. DAWSON: If I understand the reason of the motion, it is that the Government want time to consider the position, and are not going to carry on the business with a majority of one.

The PREMIER: Certainly not.

Mr. DAWSON: I have no objection to giving them time, but I hope it will be thoroughly understood by members on both sides that when we reassemble on Tuesday the position of the Government will be explained by the Premier.

The PREMIER: Perhaps by you.

The TREASURER: You may be Premier then.

Mr. DAWSON: That will be impossible—on Tuesday.

MEMBERS on the Government side: Prepare. Get ready. (Laughter.)

Mr. DAWSON: It is not a laughing matter.

Mr. BROWNE: "Many a true word is spoken in jest," though.

Mr. DAWSON: I want it to be understood that when we reassemble on Tuesday we shall have a clear statement from the Premier on the position taken up by the Government. While I have no objection to giving time now, if there is no statement made on Tuesday I will have some objection.

Mr. KATES (*Cunningham*): I congratulate the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government on the wise and honourable step he has taken. It is nothing but what I expected from the hon. gentleman. He could hardly carry on the business of the House in an honourable way with a majority of one, and I trust he will take such steps as will redound to the dignity of the Government and their supporters.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at twenty-one minutes to 4 o'clock until Tuesday next.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 1899.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 3— CRIMINAL CODE BILL.

ASSENT.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of messages from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, intimating that the Royal assent had been given to these Bills.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

HON. G. W. GRAY: I beg to move that the Council, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday next. In moving this motion, I have to apologise for the absence of the Hon. the Postmaster-General, who is unavoidably unable to be present. Consequently it devolves upon me to announce that on Saturday last the Ministry tendered their resignation to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. The occasion which led up to this was a very important motion in another place, moved by the leader of the Labour Opposition, upon which a division was taken which resulted in the Government having a majority of one. Under the circumstances it behoved the Government to consider their position; and after well considering it, they decided to tender their resignation. At present, hon. gentlemen, I have nothing further to state to the Council.

Question put and passed.

HON. G. W. GRAY: I move that the Council do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at twenty-eight minutes to 4 o'clock until Tuesday next.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 1899.

The SPEAKER (Hon. Arthur Morgan, *Warwick*) took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 3— CRIMINAL CODE BILL.

ASSENT.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received messages from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, assenting, in the name of Her Majesty, to these Bills.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. R. Dickson, *Bulimba*): I rise to inform the House what has transpired in connection with the position of the Government since we last met on Thursday. The Government, having given full reconsideration to the significance of the vote recorded on the preceding evening, felt that it was neither due to themselves nor fair to the country that they should conduct the administration of the colony with a majority of one vote only in this House of