

it from themselves, by and-bye.

Mr. McKELLAR said he would be delighted to learn from the lips of the hon. gentlemen themselves that they had become converts to Reform principles. (Laughter) If so, it was very recently. During the election the county of Bothwell had the honour of a visit from the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. Carrington). Did he go there to support the Reform candidates? No; he went there with all his personal influence and perhaps a little of the influence of his purse, to defeat the Reform candidates in that county, and to return, if possible, one of the strongest Tories that could be found—a relative, too, of the hon. gentleman. With such facts as these before him, he was asked to forget party, and to give his confidence to the Government. He could not do so. (Hear, hear). He was willing, however to give the Government a fair trial—that is to say, to give them an opportunity of bringing down their measures, and to judge them by the measures which they would submit to the House. He deprecated the course the members of the Government pursued during the recent contest. He held that members of the Government had no right to go about the country and use their position, not merely to influence, but to intimidate, the electors into submission to their views. He could not but remember the declaration made in the city of Hamilton by the Attorney-General—which he hoped the hon. gentleman now regretted—that, unless that constituency rejected his hon. friend on his left (Mr. Williams) they need not expect any appropriation for the asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, and the Blind, which was to have been established in that city. He hoped the Attorney-General made that statement thoughtlessly, and that he now repented having made it. He hoped his hon. friend would not act so cruel and tyrannical a part, as to do anything for the sake of a political object, to injure so unfortunate a class of people as the blind, and the deaf and dumb of this country. (Hear, hear). But he could not forget either that in that election, a gentleman with whom the Attorney-General was associated—he alluded to Sir John A. Macdonald—did a thing which must be deprecated and condemned by every honest man in the Dominion, as well as what was in direct violation of the law, by telegraphing to Hamilton to receive the votes of custom-house officers, in order to defeat the Reform candidate. (Hear, hear). Yet, with all these facts before them, Reformers were asked to give their cordial support to men who had endeavoured to destroy them individually, and as a party! For his own part, he was not prepared to go that length. He was willing, however, as he had said, to give them a fair trial. We were now entering on a new career, in which the Government had many difficulties to contend with; and, knowing that, he was prepared to assist them in every measure calculated to promote the well-being of this Province. (Hear, hear) He regretted to see an important omission in the Address. The Government had not indicated any policy with reference to our mineral lands. Now, if there was one thing of greater importance to the Province than another, it was the proper management of these lands. It was a subject entitled to the most serious consideration of the Government. He approved of the policy they had indicated with reference to the agricultural lands. But our mineral lands, he believed, were of much greater value than our agricultural lands, and he regretted that the Government had not indicated the policy they intended to pursue with reference to those mineral lands, which extended to the upper end of Lake Superior, and perhaps a greater distance, and which were of immense value. The policy which had hitherto prevailed with reference to them had been, he believed, the worst policy ever adopted with reference to any such matter in any civilized country. It had been a policy to prevent their being opened up, and to close them against gentlemen of means and of enterprise, who would have been glad to have opened them up, and would have thereby added materially to the revenue of the country. Since the Government had not seen fit to indicate their policy, he (Mr. McK.) might be permitted to indicate his. He believed the true policy to be to sell all mineral lands at a moderate price, and to place them in the hands of those who would immediately work them. He did not think it was the business of a Government to see how large a revenue they could make out of the public domain, directly; but a large revenue might be had indirectly, derived from the working of the mines and the settlement of the agricultural lands. He hoped the Government would direct their attention to the disposal of these lands, and to the opening up of that magnificent mineral country on the north shores of Lakes Superior and Huron. (Hear, hear).