

which had been so far displayed in the debate—talent which would have done honour to any House of Parliament in the Dominion. But he thought there was great necessity for each and every member more thoroughly studying the Act of Confederation. That Bill had, no doubt, been carefully and cunningly drawn; and he would invite the attention of the member for South Bruce—who was an acute lawyer—to gentlemen thoughts they had supreme control over their local affairs; but it was a great question with him whether any act of theirs might not be interfered with by the General Government. He, for one, would not rest content till Upper Canada was secured solely to Upper Canadians; and though he was quite prepared to submit to the disallowing clauses of the Bill, he was not prepared to allow the Federal Government to trench on their local rights. With respect to the Speech itself, he might remark, that it was competent for any member on any clause to review the whole Speech. Allusion had been made to the measures Government had promised to bring down. They were certainly not very numerous. He might say that the only measures indicated were two—a Homestead Law and the Settlement of the Wild Lands. But, before the debate closed, he would not be content until the Government had more fully enunciated their policy.

With regard to the administration of the Crown Lands, he was sorry to say, that he had been a member of a government—and he was willing to be condemned for that act—which had not instituted any measures to make change in the Crown Lands management. These lands were intended to benefit the settler, and he would say, that when the Government intimate their intention of giving free grants, they should see to it that these grants should be made absolute, on certain conditions. They should see to it that the timber should not be withheld from the settler, and that they should not attempt to force settlement in a country denuded of its valuable timber, or break the hearts of settlers by locating them on land containing nothing in the way of timber but the refuse left by the lumberman. There was, too, another aspect of this question. Vested rights—the rights of those gentlemen expending large sums of money in making improvements on the lands—ought to be respected. (Hear). The Address itself having given very general satisfaction, he would not take up the time of the House at present. For himself he should join heart and hand with the members of the Opposition in seeing that there be economy used in the administration of the public affairs; and he should be very happy if his past experience would be of any service to members of the House. (Applause.)

Mr. OLIVER, of South Oxford, said that he thought at the outset of the debate it was going to be stormy. He saw that a simple remark of the member for Bothwell brought out a rumbling from one corner of the House (Sir Henry Smith); presently, there was a dark cloud, and thunder pealed forth from the benches opposite (when the hon. member for South Simcoe spoke) which made his (Mr. Oliver's) heart quail, so that he determined to keep his seat. (Laughter). It was said that young members generally defined their position on such an occasion, and he would say a word or two on that matter. He had not been elected to give Hon. Mr. McDonald's Government a blind support; but had been elected to say that he had no confidence in any Coalition Government ever formed. (Hear, hear). Since coming to the House, he felt disposed to be more lenient than before to gentlemen in the treasury benches; but still would say that he did not believe that any patent combination, or Coalition Government, ever did,