

that the members for London and Toronto take a step further than they had done in joining a Reform Administration, and go over altogether into the Reform ranks. (Loud laughter). Having enlarged on the necessity for the Local Legislature strictly maintaining its rights, and not allowing them to be usurped by the Federal Legislature, the honourable gentleman expressed his satisfaction with the abolition of a Legislative Council, argued that there ought to be a radical change in the working of the Crown Land Department, and that the country should be developed by a more thorough system, and took his seat amid applause.

Mr. COOKBURN, North Victoria, mentioned some circumstances which had come within his own observation, to show that the Crown Land's Department in past years had not indicated a proper acquaintance with the nature of our public lands and the mode of managing them. He said he must dissent entirely from a statement made some years ago by a Commissioner of Crown Lands, that all the good Crown lands of this Province were exhausted. From his own knowledge and personal observation he could vouch for the existence of a large number of large belts of land, well adapted for settlement, in the North Ridings of Victoria, Peterborough, and Simcoe, and there might be similar tracts of land in counties with which he was not so well acquainted. He approved of the system of free grants, and believed it would be the means of augmenting our population to a very considerable extent. He agreed with the hon. member for Algoma, and the hon. member for Welland, that there should be a radical change in our system of Crown Lands management; and he hoped the hon. Commissioner would apply himself to making that change as soon as possible. (Hear, hear). He (Mr. Cookburn) had been elected as an independent member. He thought it, however, his duty to the country and to the constituency he represented, to give the Administration a fair and impartial support, and to judge them by their measures. So far as the Premier was concerned, he believed he would administer the affairs of the Province in a very economical manner. Some thought he might go too far, so as to be open to the charge of chiselparing. Economy, however, was a very good principle, and he was glad to believe that the Premier's tendencies lay in that direction. He had no personal complaint to bring against the Administration. Thought he had been known to some extent as a Reformer, none of them interfered with his election. He was not aware why he experienced this immunity, unless it was that the Premier, not having the characteristics of Dr. Livingstone, did not care to venture so far back as into the county he had the honour to represent. (Hear, hear, and laughter).

Mr. BOYD said he was very happy to see the Speaker occupying the honourable position he did in this Chamber, more especially as he was an eastern man, and it was well known that the wisest men came from the East. (Laughter). In attempting to address the house on this occasion, he laboured under some embarrassment. For, when he took into consideration the associations of this Chamber, the circumstances under which this house had been convened, and the grand objects which they had met to accomplish, these were to him sufficient causes for feeling more or less of embarrassment. He remembered that it was in this Chamber that the late Robert Baldwin battled for the right against the wrong, assisted by other men of noble parts, of energy, nerve, and elasticity of thought. He remembered, too, that the position in which we now found ourselves was one of great moment, were it for no further consideration than this: that they were here assembled to devise measures for giving in this Province of Ontario a home to the emigrant; for teaching him the science of self-government, and for securing to his children a sound and useful education. He might be permitted to refer to the circumstances under which he appeared here, as the representative of the County of Prescott. It was well known to this House that he had as his antagonist the Hon. T. D. McGee, than whom there could not be a more honourable opponent. But, while he said that, he would not be afraid to enter the lists again with him to-night, and battle with him on the grounds on which he battled with him in that contest. The hon. gentleman came there from the Province of Quebec, on the assumption that he was *par excellence* the only man that could be found to battle for the rights of the minority in the Province of Ontario. He (Mr. Boyd) had felt himself called upon to enter his solemn protest against the theory of the hon. gentleman that, in order to such a minority being properly legislated for, they must be represented by one of themselves. That doctrine to him seemed absolutely revolutionary, for he held that all correct legislation should always protect the minority. (Hear, hear, and laughter). It was a result to the Conservatism of Ontario.