

servatives did as his government would do when hard pressed; they had adopted every scheme to retain office. (Tremendous cheers from Opposition). The Reformers had deprecated his missionary tour in the West; but if he had it to do again, if he were again badgered, he would defend himself in the same way. He had been attacked, and all kinds of abuse heaped on him by THE GLOBE, and he went out to defend himself, and the result was the number of friendly faces he saw around him in the house. He would always defend himself while he was alive, and his enemies might slander him after his death. It was unfair to denounce him and Sir John A. Macdonald for doing what Mr. McKellar and Mr. Mackenzie had done. It was a laudable ambition to strive to be in a position to serve the country on the treasury benches, and an able Opposition was also desirable. He fully accepted the responsibility of his course during the elections. He had opposed Confederation, because he did not like some of its provisions. He was opposed to an appointed Upper House, which in the past had killed all reforms, and whose members feared neither God nor man. (Oh! oh!) He spoke of them politically. (Laughter). He promised that the Government would bring down measures on various subjects; but it did not deem them worthy of mention in the Speech from the Throne. The Government will hold itself responsible for the whole legislation of the country, and will control the measures introduced by independent members. He said the Government could not think of questioning the Municipal Act, because it was the work of the member for Bothwell, who was an authority in municipal matters. He went on to condemn dual representation, and pleaded that the Ministry had not had time to perfect all the measures required. No great measures were demanded by the country, and where was the necessity for party? If members fulfilled their pledges of a fair trial, and the Government introduced only good measures, there could be no opposition party in the house. The Government had intended to bring in an Election Bill, and had not been aware of the intention of the member for Frontenac of doing so—had had no communication with him on the subject. The Government would propose free grants of 100 acres of arable land to settlers; but would reserve the pine timber as a source of revenue to the country. The Homestead Bill, he explained, would only apply to the free grants to be made to settlers, any further application of it would be attended with difficulty. Deeds would issue to settlers after five years residence on the lands granted, for the mere cost of surveying, &c. He indicated that the Government would adopt a policy to secure the working of mineral locations that might be sold, so that they should not be held by speculators. With some explanations on the land grievances in Bruce and Grey, and thanks for the courtesy of the Opposition, the Attorney-General sat down amid cheers from his friends.

Mr. C. H. BOULTER (North Hastings) rose to express his pleasure at the motion, and the course of the debate thereon. He was pleased, not because it was originated by a Reformer or a Conservative, but because it came from a desire to do a practical good. He felt that the Hon. Attorney-General was the right man in the right place. He approved of many of the remarks that fell from the hon. member for Peel, who, from an acquaintance with his county, had a considerable knowledge of the matter. There was a great quantity of Crown lands in the county he (Mr. Boulter) represented. Part of that constituency is in a very neglected state as regards roads and other necessities for public traffic. While being also pleased with the Government policy regarding homesteads, he regretted that more had not been said about the mineral lands. He represented a mining county, and had some knowledge of what was there wanted. A wiser course might be adopted in reference to these lands. They have hitherto been managed by the system of private licenses. Some claims turned out middling, some perhaps immensely rich, and some lands again were worthless, but all were charged a like license, which he thought decidedly wrong to those who were so unfortunate as to get a poor yield. A certain royalty ought to be reserved by Government, no doubt, but a certain amount of capital is necessary to be expended to develop the richness of that region, and secure good roads. The county of Hastings has three long roads running from front to rear, the taxes to keep which in repair fall almost solely on the settlers in front of the mining grounds. A tax should be imposed upon every ounce coming from the crushers, so that the revenue would come from the value, and rich companies as well as well as private persons treated in such a manner fairly, and not as at present by the license system. The mineral lands themselves should be made pay in some manner for the needed improvements, rather than imposing their expenses upon the municipality.

Mr. M. CLARK (South Greenville) said