

ou. asking the Government. Several Bills, mostly of an important nature, had already been introduced in this way, without any previous consultation with the Government; and the Government were no longer prepared to sanction this course. If the alterations needed in the standing laws of the country were so numerous as to require the legislation proposed by supporters of the Administration, then it was the bounden duty of the Government to take notice of such a fact; and if Government failed to do this, and were forgetful of their duty, hon. gentlemen had the remedy in their hands, and might declare that the Government had failed in their duty in not comprehending the wants of the country. The honourable and gallant knight from Frontenac had brought in one or two such measures without ever consulting the Government. The fact was that Government had intended to bring forward such measures, and had them under consideration, when the matter was taken out of their hands. (Hear, hear). Now when he found those who professed to be friendly with the Government taking it upon themselves, without intimation, to bring down such measures, all he could say was that the proceeding was altogether unusual. (Hear, hear). And in reference to the measure before the House, he felt sure that when his hon. friend (the member for Peel) had his attention directed to it—that it was a question which concerned not merely Division Courts, but all the County Court Judges throughout the land, and made other important changes—he would see that it was a measure of such great importance that the Government could not consent to be relieved of their responsibility in relation thereto. Besides, the Government was not at present aware that the working of the Division Court Act had been so obnoxious as to require so complete a revision as that contemplated by this measure. Not only were sweeping changes asked for—but also that they should be enacted at once—and, further, that one of the most rigidly adhered to of the orders of the house should be suspended in order to allow of these rapid changes. Now, he would ask, if the Government had the confidence of the house, that their friends should not do this? He did not say hon. members ought not to assist in legislation; but he did say that hon. gentlemen should leave vital matters, such as he had alluded to, in the hands of the Government. Hon. gentlemen opposite took the constitutional course, and were right in desiring to hold the Government responsible for the legislation he had alluded to. For himself, so long as he had occupied a seat in the Opposition—and so long as hon. Mr. Baldwin occupied that position—they never brought in one measure, but held the Government responsible. (Hear, hear). The course of taking the legislation out of the hands of the Government, really amount-