

The House ought to be careful in the matter of railways. The country had had disastrous experience of giving Government control over railways; and he need not refer to the Grand Trunk and the Intercolonial to prove the assertion. It was the duty of the House, in view of the approaching elections, to be exceedingly careful in entrusting money to the Government for railway purposes. (Hear, hear.) He regretted there was no mention in the speech of the fires in the Ottawa district. The people who had suffered in that district deserved assistance from the Government. The Nova Scotia fishermen, some weeks ago, received assistance from the Government, and he thought our fellow-subjects in Ottawa were equally deserving. As to the Crown Lands, they came into our hands after confederation, and the country was fully prepared to accept a measure of a liberal character for the settlement of these lands. As to immigration, he thought the Government should act in a different way than they had formerly done—namely, sending a few of their supporters to England to spend a few months there every summer. He considered it would be for the benefit of Canada and the North-West to have permanent agents at home; and he also thought it was very

desirable to have a system of scientific agricultural education established in the Province (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BEATTY regretted that the hon. member for South Bruce had expressed himself in the way he did on the subject of arbitration; and hoped he would retract.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear.

Mr. BEATTY continued to say it was well this House should let the people of Quebec know that it regarded the award of the arbitrators as a finality.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Hear, hear.

Mr. BEATTY proceeded to comment on the different clauses of the Speech. He was in favour of scientific agricultural education. He considered that, although the Government could not expend money unless it were voted, they would have been justified in expending a sum on the Ottawa sufferers. It would have been right to have made an appropriation, and to have asked the House to sanction it; and he trusted the Government would even yet make a recommendation of this kind. He proceeded to say that in a certain sense he was a believer in party. But it was necessary to show that there was some principle which called for a division. He thought that, in the main, the Government had conducted the affairs of the country in an economical manner, and, in the main, according to Reform principles. He stood there as a Reformer, to judge the Government fairly—not pledged for them, nor against them.

Mr. McKELLAR said he had listened with attention to the remarks of the last speaker, and had come to the conclusion that he was trying to serve two masters—a thing which we were told on high authority it was impossible to do. He (Mr. McKellar) must congratulate his hon. friend from North Bruce (Mr. Sinclair) on having received instructions from the hon. member for North Leeds (Mr. H. D. Smith). The member for North Leeds came to them a year and a-half ago, and while he was imparting instructions to the hon. member for North Bruce, he should have given the House some of his experiences and some of the mental sufferings he had undergone when under conviction, and before he became a convert to the present Ministry. (Cheers and laughter.) It was told that just about the time his conversion was completed the Attorney-General departed from his usual mode of dealing with members. The hon. gentleman had not then avowed himself as a supporter of the Government, nor had he done so as yet; but just about that time the Attorney-General, with his usual generosity, gave that gentleman a Commissionership. He (Mr. McKellar) did not say, as some did, that this had anything to do with that gentleman's conversion. But while he was engaged in his missionary labours, as to-night, he should have told the House about all this. (Laughter.) He (Mr. McKellar) was told that fortune had smiled on the gentleman again, and that another commissionership had been placed in his way. This, of course, had nothing to do with his conversion; but it was one of those coincidences that attended the conversion of this gentleman. It was said there were influences at work also in the case of Mr. Beatty—that there was a timber-limit, and that the Government had control over it. It was a slander, of course, to make any insinuations, and he (Mr. McKellar) simply mentioned these vile calumnies. (Ironical laughter.) Nothing of the sort would influence that gentleman—(renewed laughter)—but it was said this was the way conversions were going on. He (Mr. McKellar) wished to say a few words to the Treasurer. If what the House had heard to-night were true, he would soon leave his present office and join the evangelical ministry. (Laughter.) Before doing so, he (Mr. McKellar) would wish to say a few words to him. If it were a crime to belong to party, he (Mr. McKellar) knew of no man on whose shoulders a heavier burden of sin rested. He (Mr. McKellar) had been told before he had the pleasure of that gentleman's acquaintance of the valuable services he had rendered in Brant in denouncing the Tory Administration. But he fell into the ways of transgression, although he continued to denounce the Tories until a late period. At the convention we had in Toronto, he was there—

Hon. Mr. WOOD—You are mistaken.

Mr. McKELLAR—Were you not in town?

Hon. Mr. WOOD—The day previous.

Mr. McKELLAR—Was it not every day during the convention?

Hon. Mr. WOOD—I had business in the Court of Chancery. (Laughter.)

Mr. McKELLAR—The hon. gentleman was in town, and he was at the door of the building, at all events.

Hon. Mr. WOOD (excitedly)—Never. That is palpably incorrect. I was not at the door of the convention, nor near the door. I made no attempt to go there.

Mr. McKELLAR said that if the Treasurer stated so, he was bound

to accept the statement. But he (McKellar) heard another thing. He had heard that on the way home the Treasurer denounced the coalition that had then taken place, as an unholy alliance. A very short time after this he became a Minister of the Crown, and those little advantages which the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville enjoyed came to the Treasurer. He maintained that they could not have good government so long as they had gentlemen associated together such as occupied the seats opposite. Mr. McKellar then criticised the votes of the members of the Government in the old House of Assembly, and in the present House of Commons, showing the contradictory character of their votes. It had been said that it was no matter who composed the Ministry, so long as they introduced good measures; but to his mind it appeared of considerable importance. It was important that they should know that gentlemen were sitting on the Treasury benches who held opinions which they believed to be sound, and who introduced their measures, not because they were forced to do so by the country, but because their enlightened views lead them to do so. (Cheers.) As sound Reformers they could not support the present Government. He thought the Conservatives in the Cabinet were in a very humiliating position. The Treasurer and the Attorney-General both said they were converting them; and the House had evidence from the lips of these two members that the principles of the Conservative members of the Cabinet were not correct. (Hear.) He held that party was absolutely necessary. It was true that Reform measures were introduced by the Government; but the Premier, who professed to be a Reformer, said, "It does not matter what measure the people of Ontario ask for, I will grant it provided it keeps the Reform party out of power." This was the declaration made to a personal friend of his own. (Oh!) He considered that he had a right to refer to these personal questions.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—On such authority?

Mr. McKELLAR—I do not believe that the hon. gentleman can deny it. He would now refer to the acts of the Government. The mineral policy was altered at the suggestion of the Reform Opposition, as was also the free grant policy. With regard to the latter, Mr. McKellar detailed the circumstances of a case of great hardship, where a settler was not allowed to cut down wood to build a house, though he might burn it.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS did not know of any such case.

Mr. McKELLAR said he had it on the information of Mr. Ardagh of Barrie. Another case, in which the pioneer settlers on the free grant land were compelled to pay 50 cents an acre, was also cited. Their object should not be to tax the settlers who came amongst them. At the back of Peterborough there were many settlers in great distress, and he hoped that the Government would devise some means of affording them relief.

Mr. CARNEGIE was not aware of this distress.

Mr. McKELLAR said it was in townships lying at the back of Peterborough. The Government took great credit for the surplus. He was surprised at the Treasurer making the comparison that he did as to the amount per head of the expenses of the Government. He must be aware that the Governmental machinery was as expensive in small communities as it was in much larger ones. He maintained that the credit of the surplus was not due to the present Government. It was well known that for five years before confederation deficits were annually; and this was likely to have been the case if the old state of affairs had continued. But they were not indebted to the hon. gentlemen opposite for the change. They had always opposed it, and the Attorney-General resisted it to the end. He had a theory of his own—a myth—a double majority; but when he tried to work it, it was found to be a miserable failure. After some further reference to the manner in which confederation was brought about, Mr. McKellar proceeded to notice the action of the members of the Government in reference to the increased subsidy to Nova Scotia. On the floor of that House they exhibited a spectacle that was humiliating to the whole Province when at the putting of the 13th resolution they were defeated, and the Government had either to reverse their votes or vacate their seats. As honest, upright, and independent men, did they adhere to their vote? He would never forget how the Attorney-General sprang up to vote "yea" against the "nay" he had voted but a moment before. But they reversed their votes for no other reason than the unworthy one that they wished to retain their seats. He thought the country would condemn them at the elections. (Hear.) He hoped to see a party Government take the seats of a hybrid Government such as that now in power. If it was a Conservative Government, which adhered to its principles, and went out of office when it lost the support of the country, he would prefer it to the one now in power. At any rate let them get back to honest administration and political principle.

Mr. SMITH (Leeds) offered some personal explanations with regard to his position. He was elected to give the Government a fair trial, and he had done so. With regard to the appointments he had received, they were worth but \$413; and he thought he had rather conferred a favour on the Government in accepting them than placed himself under any obligations. (Laughter.) He would, however, make one statement in reply to this attack of the hon. member for Bothwell. He would like to ask the hon. gentleman about a note for \$1000 which he (Mr. Smith) saw lying on the desk of a gentleman, who, holding it up, said, "If I endorse that I shall have to pay it."

Mr. McKELLAR—I am sure I never sent such a note. Give us the name and all about it.

Mr. SMITH—I have only to say that the Hon. Geo. Brown had such a note previous to last election. It was to pay for election expenses. (Oh.)

Mr. McKELLAR—I deny it. (Loud cries of "Hear.")

Mr. SMITH—I challenge the Hon. Geo. Brown to deny it. I state it on my veracity—all I say is that I saw the note with the name on it.

Mr. McKELLAR—All I have to say is that I never sent such a note.

Mr. SMITH—This is a very unpleasant matter, and I regret that the hon. gentleman has forced me to make this disclosure.

Mr. McKELLAR—Well, I never sent such a note—the charge is entirely untrue.

Mr. SMITH then proceeded with his remarks, claiming that he supported squarely, and that he believed, the people would reelect him.

Mr. MAGILL said he considered that the speech from the Throne was a model speech. As to the arbitration he feared from the spirit shown by the people of Quebec, that it would be some years before the people of Ontario would realize fully all the advantages that would arise from a settlement of this great question. Mr. Magill went on to comment favourably on the several paragraphs of the speech.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS proceeded to explain the circumstances under which the Mineral Bill was introduced, and the reasons why it was repealed. The government had heard that there were very valuable mineral discoveries in the Lake Superior region, and thought it was but right that a royalty should be exacted. They then introduced the Bill, but the Government found that the reports of the mineral wealth had been exaggerated, and repealed the Bill. He then proceeded to defend the policy of the Government in the matter of the free grants, which he characterized as a sound, honest, liberal and just one. He referred to the remarks which had been made on the appointment of Mr. Smith, of North Leeds, and contended it was perfectly legal, for it was not an office under the crown. To his (Mr. Richards) certain knowledge the Hon. Robert Baldwin was in the habit of making selections from members of the House to perform the duties of Queen's Counsel. The Government had a perfect right to exercise their patronage in the appointment of Mr. Smith. Mr. Richards then went on to defend the policy of the Government on the arbitration question.

Mr. PARDEE moved the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. M. C. CAMERON moved the adjournment of the House.

The House rose at ten minutes to twelve o'clock.