

liberal policy to be brought forward. For years he had admired the conduct of the Atty.-Gen., but he had felt it his duty to oppose the present Administration on the ground of difference of political views. The election of 1867 had resulted in a majority for the Government, owing to the cry of no party having been raised. He then referred to the proceedings of the Atty.-Gen. at that election in the City of Hamilton, where he made the famous axe-grinding speech. On that occasion the Atty.-Gen. attempted to bribe a whole constituency by his conduct with respect to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum in that city. The people of Hamilton were told that they did not return a certain gentleman; they should not have the Asylum.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Who said that?

Hon. Mr. CURRIE—The Atty.-General denied it.
 Hon. Mr. CURRIE—Perhaps the hon. gentleman did not say so in so many words. (Hear, hear) The Act which authorized the appropriation of the money had also fixed the places where the money should be spent. It had been claimed for the Government that it had pursued an economical policy, but he found that the expenditure had exhibited a steady increase. The surplus he thought might have been taken advantage of to reduce the taxation of the country. The Government had laid fresh taxation on his county to the extent of \$5,000 a year. The tax he referred to was the license tax. (Oh, Oh) It had been stated that he represented a Conservative county, but he went into that county as a Reformer and as opposed to Coalition. That county had sent him to this House to aid to displace the Coalition Government. He then referred at great length to the circumstances connected with the election of the hon. Provincial Secretary for Niagara. Hon. gentleman had secured his side of the House on education and etiquette, and had introduced allusions to Boss Tweed and other individuals which he could retort upon if comparison were not odious. The hon. Atty.-General in his speech had appeared to consider that the Coalition of 1864 was a political sin but that of 1867 was a political virtue. He (Mr. Currie) had distinctly represented himself to the people of Welland as an opponent of Coalition, and notwithstanding the lectures of the hon. member for Lincoln the constituency had supported him. He accused that hon. gentleman of inconsistency and thought lectures on that subject came from him with a bad grace. The result of the late elections conclusively showed that the country was opposed to the present administration. In this House he believed there were fifty Reformers and thirty-two Conservatives; why should they not have a strong Reform Government, not to do so would be to prove themselves incompetent.

Mr. BLAKE rose, he said, to call upon the Government to take the step which it was their duty to do under the present circumstances. The House had fully expressed its want of confidence in the disposal which the Government would make of the railway fund. For all that was known the Government had, since this debate commenced, been passing irrevocable Orders in Council disposing of the money. The House had by voting upon the confidence motion perfectly right in expressing its opinion on this subject without waiting for the filling of the now vacant seats. His amendment carried had been a full condemnation of the Government, and the Opposition would be stronger when the House was full than at the present moment. He then stated that previous Governments had retired when there were nineteen, twenty-two and fourteen seats absentees.

Mr. RYKERT asked if the counties were not represented (Hear.)

Mr. BLAKE said that it made no difference whether the counties were represented or not, as long as the members were absent. This Government had been plainly and thoroughly beaten on their policy, and he called on them to resign their functions as ministers of the Crown, instead of protracting a useless struggle. He appealed to them to leave before they had to call in policemen to eject them. (Laughter.) He appealed to them collectively and individually not to stain whatever reputation they had in the country, but to leave a place they had been told they ought not to fill.

ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD said it was rather too much for the hon. gentleman to speak in this way when he had no complaint to make excepting with regard to one measure of last session. (Cheers) Not one objection had he taken to any act of theirs, whether departmentally or legislatively. Did he desire it because he was afraid to find that the vote about to be taken would reduce that taken last night and would reduce the probability of his walking over to the Treasury benches? The hon. gentleman had been counting heads to-day and had found this out. He (Attorney-General) was prepared without going further to state that in the present state of the House it was not the intention of the Government to act in any way in reference to the objections made by this House to the vote of last session. He contended that the hon. member for Bruce was not justified in claiming a want of confidence until the hon. members absent had an opportunity of expressing their views. If he (Attorney-General) felt himself then convinced that he did not possess the confidence of the House and country he would be found at once abandoning the office he now had the honor to hold. He had no desire to remain in power. He had no jobs, no pet railways to which he desired to show any favor in respect to the appropriation of that million and a half. He was proud to say that the members representing the only two lines of railway which had been aided—but on which aid no action had yet been taken—passed through a country which was represented by friends of the Government whom there could be no charge of having influenced. The minimum amount per mile under the Act had been promised in both cases and no charge of discriminating in favor of these lines could be made. He was not there at the nod and beck of the hon. gentleman opposite, and protested that it was unfair that they should attempt a change of office on a mere

side judgment in the absence of eight members. The House would in a few days have to adjourn over the holidays, and if the members on the other side believed they had the confidence of the House they surely could afford to wait a fair test of that fact. If then they proved their supposition to be true they would have it in their power to boast that the present Government had remained in power too long. He, however, denied that such would be the case. (Cheers.) He would state to the House that until a full judgment was arrived at the Government would only exercise the ordinary duties of an administration, and would make no further promises to any railway company, and would not assume any power inconsistent with the vote of last night; but he said, as he had said before, that they were not going to be driven from the position they had taken. They would be prepared to discuss any further amendments which the Opposition might wish to make in the address—and he trusted they would be respectful ones—and after an answer had been sent to His Excellency's speech from the Throne would be the time for the Government to answer any vote of non-confidence which might be made, and then only could they be called upon to vacate the offices they now held. (Loud cheers)

Hon. Mr. WOOD said it seemed to him that the correct argument was this, that the Government was not bound to resign upon the failure of any measure of legislation, unless that measure was essential to the proper administration of the Government. In a certain sense the position of a Minister of the Crown in the administration of Government and the position of a Minister in Parliament were distinct. The leader of the Opposition had shown that in England very few Ministries had ever resigned on account of failure in their administration, only one or two cases having occurred in many years. He referred to the opinion expressed by Sir Robt. Peel in the case of measures absolutely necessary to the carrying on of Government which defeated a Ministry should resign, because it would be useless for them to attempt to carry on the administration of the country without having the proper means granted them by the Legislature. Therefore he (Mr. Wood) thought it a correct doctrine that each Ministry ought in a certain sense to be the judge of what was necessary, and whether constitutional usage required them to vacate their seats. With regard to the railway policy of the Government, if the House disapproved of it it would be easy to introduce a Bill to amend that Act, and it would not very much affect the general administration of the Government whether that amendment was adopted or not. But from the whole tenor of the votes given he did not so understand the expression of the House, from what he had understood of the action of the House, so far as a majority of it was concerned, he concluded that the House was not satisfied with the present position of the Ministry. It might be said that that House did not express properly the sentiment of the whole country. There might be something in that proposal; it might be that the eight seats were occupied. However, in view of the votes which had been given by the majority of the House, and in view of the fact that he had failed to bring any support to the Government from the Reform side of the House, he felt it his duty to bow to the decision of the House as already expressed. In this he was bound to tell the House that the Premier had considered him precipitate in the opinion which he had formed, thinking that by the Constitution he (Mr. Wood) ought to wait until the vacant seats in the House were occupied. But taking the other points into consideration, that it was not in connection with this particular thing that the difference occurred, and considering also the fact that persons in that House had indicated to him that they were not in a position to give the Government any support, but must vote against them, he had thought it his duty to resign. In doing this he might tell the House that his relations with the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government, from beginning to end, were most cordial. There had been no differences to cause any resignation on his part; it was merely on the grounds that he had stated, and though no longer a Minister he should feel it his duty to support the Government in any measures which they might bring forward, which, in his opinion, might conduce to the welfare of the country. He should feel bound to oppose the amendment of the hon. member for West Middlesex, and to assist the Government in passing the address through the House in every legitimate way; and if it should turn out that the Government had a majority in the House and in the country, he should still support them in all good measures which they should bring before the House. He would leave the country to judge of the fidelity with which he had discharged his duties during the four years he had been treasurer.

Mr. PARDEE said that if he thought it was unfair to take the vote while these seats were unoccupied he would oppose it, but he did not think it was so. The position taken by the Government was impracticable. Where was the line to be drawn—if it was wrong to vote with one-tenth of the members absent, would it not be wrong to do so with one-twentieth absent. This would virtually render it impossible to move any amendment to the address. If that principle was to be established it would be an easy thing for a Government feeling itself at all in a difficult position to arrange accordingly. He believed that such a precedent should not be admitted. If no previous legislation was to be amended he thought the House would be relegating one of its chief functions. It was a totally absurd position. The Opposition was opposed to the proposed mode of administering the railway aid fund, believing it to be improper and unconstitutional. The Act passed last session, he contended, was passed in ignorance of the real feeling of the country, which had shown its sentiment on the subject by placing the Government in a minority; and the ma-

jority against the Government would have been still greater if it had not been for the unsuitable time of the year selected by the Government for the elections with the object of getting an unfair advantage over the country. He charged the hon. member for London with holding out a threat to his constituents of refusing the vote in aid of the Huron Railway unless they returned him. He was bringing a similar charge against the member for East Middlesex, but

Mr. TOOLEY denied that any such statement had been made.

Hon. Mr. CARLING also stated that no argument of that kind had been made use of by himself or his friends at London.

Mr. PARDEE went on to refer to the charges against Mr. Bethune, which he characterized as brought forward for the purpose of influencing that gentleman's election.

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD explained the observations he made on a previous occasion with respect to the West Toronto election case. Referring to some remarks made by hon. members opposite, he thought that in that House all sectional feeling between east and west or other divisions of the country should be avoided. He appealed to the hon. member for Kingston to say that he (Mr. Macdonald) was not one of those who had endeavored to exercise influence over him. In regard to the Grand Trunk, which had been referred to so many times, especially by the hon. member for Welland, he was not satisfied as to the truth of the charges brought.

Hon. Mr. CURRIE stated that before his election, every Grand Trunk employee in the country was ordered to vote against him. He was willing to have the matter brought before a committee.

Mr. MACDONALD said that in the Brockville election case, Chief Justice Hagarty gave it as his opinion that no undue influence had been brought to bear by the Grand Trunk Railway, and that the reports in the *Globe* were incorrect.

Mr. MACKENZIE said that the Judge complimented the *Globe* reporter for his accuracy.

Mr. MACDONALD said that the compliment referred to the Glangary and Stormont cases, and not to the Brockville case. Mr. Fitzsimmons, the hon. member for Brockville, had since made representations to the *Globe* in reference to the inaccuracy of these reports. (Hear) The resolution of the hon. member for Wellington had with great political tact introduced words into his motion identical with words which appeared in the election address of the hon. member for Lennox (Grange), but he trusted that hon. gentlemen would not be caught by such a hook. Holding the views which he (Macdonald) did upon this subject he wished to test the feeling of the House upon it, and therefore moved that all the words after "His Excellency" be struck out, and the following inserted: that inasmuch as one-tenth of the constituencies of this Province remain unrepresented in this House, by reason of six members returned at the last election having had their elections declared void, a seventh seat having become vacant by double return, and an eighth by reason of a resignation, and inasmuch as the Government have declared that the railway fund is in-

tact, and that they will not, in consideration of the opinion expressed by this House in passing said amendment, make any appropriation from said fund without the same having been first submitted to Parliament, it is inexpedient and unfair to consider any motion of want of confidence in the Government until the said constituencies are duly represented in this House.

The SPEAKER ruled the motion out of order, as being in effect the same as that of the member for South Norfolk (McCall).

It being six o'clock, the House rose.

AFTER RECESS.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 7:45.
 Hon. Mr. CAMERON considered that in reference to this railway aid fund, the country had decided by a very large majority in favor of the principle of appropriating the surplus to that purpose. The action of the Opposition in thus opposing the will of the people was contrary to the principle of constitutional government. Referring to the charge made against the Government of introducing politics at a certain banquet, he thought it was proper for Ministers to take every opportunity of appearing before their fellow subjects and explaining their actions. He contended that the principle now proposed of affording aid to railways was precisely the same as the principle involved in the Act of 1849. But hon. gentlemen opposite had gone about the country leading the people to believe that all that sum of a million and a-half had been devoted to the purpose of corrupting the constituencies. The statement had even been made by the organ of the Opposition that three millions had been used for that purpose. The hon. gentleman opposite had asserted that the Government scheme involved the destruction of the representative system. But he (Mr. Cameron) held that that statement had no foundation; this House had voted in favor of that measure last session, and had assigned the particular class of railways to which aid should be given, but it was left to the Government to fix the amounts to be advanced. Then the hon. gentleman had asked what could be more atrocious than to come down and ask grants for erecting public institutions, the sites for which were not known to the House. The question of importance to the country was whether such buildings were necessary and the representatives of the people decided on that question, but the question of where they should be located was one that should be left to the Executive, which would not care to make a selection which would be disadvantageous to the country. They did not wish to have a repetition on the floor of that House of the scenes which took place when the question of the selection of a location for the Dominion Government was debated. The hon. gentleman had also charged the hon. Atty.-General with being willing to undergo any humiliation for the purpose of clinging to office. But the whole career of his hon. friend showed how unfounded

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO.

Second Parliament—First Session.

FRIDAY, Dec. 15, 1871.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3:30.

PETITIONS.

Several petitions were presented.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Mr. RYKERT presented the first report of the Select Committee on Standing Orders, asking for a reduction of quorum nine members. The report was adopted.

DEBATE ON THE REPLY TO THE ADDRESS.

Hon. Mr. CURRIE wished to explain the position in which he stood with respect to his constituents and to the House. He had once been a supporter of the hon. Atty. General, but now found himself supporting his honorable friend (Mr. Blake); but nevertheless, he had not changed his political opinions. He had expected the address would have brought more important measures before the House; he could not find fault with the address so much for what it contained as for what it omitted. There were various reforms which the country had a right to expect brought forward. He had hoped that the question of equal representation would receive attention, and that the hon. gentleman would have brought forward a Bill for preventing members of the Dominion Legislature from taking seats in this House. Then or