

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD (South Norfolk) replied to some remarks of the member for West North Norfolk, and the member for West Toronto. He then proceeded to speak of the Scott murder, and rejoiced that the universal opinion in this country was that the murderers should be brought to justice. He considered it was shameful and outrageous that a representative of Her Majesty should disgrace the position he held by shaking hands with the man who was guilty of the blood of an innocent man. He was of opinion that this House was a proper place in which to bring this matter up, and if the Ottawa Government did not do its duty that would be no fault of this House. With regard to the amendment before the House, he would oppose it, and support the policy of the Government.

Dr. McCALL (South Norfolk) regretted that the member for South Bruce should have taken this action while eight constituencies were unrepresented in the House. He would therefore move an amendment to the amendment.

That inasmuch as one-tenth of the constituencies of this Province remain at this time unrepresented in this House by reason of six of the members elected at the last election having had their elections declared void, and a seventh having become vacant by reason of a double return, and an eighth by reason of the resignation of a member elected thereto, it is inexpedient further to consider the question involved in the said amendment till the said constituencies are duly represented on the floor of this House.

Mr. BLAKE said this was not an amendment to the amendment. It was in fact a proposal to adjourn the debate upon the amendment and upon the address. It left the amendment just where it was.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD contended that the amendment of the member for South Norfolk was quite informal. If it was carried the amendment of the member for South Bruce would fall to the ground, and the House would proceed to the consideration of the Address.

Mr. BLAKE pointed out that if the amendment of the member for South Norfolk was carried, it would have to be added to the first paragraph of the address, and that would make nonsense.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON argued that if the second amendment carried the first would fall to the ground, and they would proceed to the consideration of the Address.

The SPEAKER said the amendment, if carried, would have to be incorporated in the original resolution.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said the object of the mover of the second amendment was to take the sense of the House as to whether it was expedient to consider at this time the subject involved in the amendment of the member for South Bruce. If the House decided it was not expedient, then they would go on with the Address.

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Dr. CLARKE—Hear, hear.
Mr. MACKENZIE—It is the Government that is factious.

Dr. McCALL went on to say that he was not a party-man, and to speak of the evils of partyism. He praised the Government for their conduct in the matter of the award between Ontario and Quebec, but condemned the working of the School Bill. He said that the Provincial Board of Public Instruction was outside the power of the Government and of Parliament, and was practically an irresponsible body. He was in favour of making the Educational Department a department of the Government, and of having a Minister to take charge of it. He went on to argue in favour of the establishment of an agricultural college, and of assimilation of the courts of law and equity.

Mr. GOW ridiculed the argument of the Government that the House could do nothing until the vacant seats were filled. If they could not deal with the amendment of Mr. Blake, it would be better for them to go home. (Hear, hear.) The argument of the Government was a most absurd proposition; it declared their weakness and showed that they were shrinking from defeat. (Applause.) A most important principle was involved in Mr. Blake's amendment. The country had complained not only of the block sum of a million and a-half of dollars placed at the disposal of the Government, but had also complained of the fact that the Government had been given discretionary power over every public work executed within the past four years. (Cheers.) The Opposition, when they protested against this state of things, were voted down; but when they went to the country the Ministry were voted down. (Applause.) The amendment of Mr. Blake was to the effect that no money should be given away without the sanction of the House. The House had no right to abdicate its duties in that respect, and hand them over to the Government. The Government had no right to usurp power as they had usurped it in respect to the distribution of the public funds. He was not afraid of a vote of the House on this subject. If the House took the question of distribution of the funds into its own hands, it would effectually prevent log rolling. But even log rolling was a lesser evil than the system adopted by the Government, which was this—"We will help them that help us." (Applause.) Nothing could be more corrupt than that principle; yet it was one on which the Government had avowedly acted for the last four years. They had unblushingly proclaimed that they were there to help those that helped them. (Hear, hear.) He had only lately seen the illustration of this principle in the remarks of a certain personage—"What did you do for the Government?" (Laughter.) He condemned the poverty of the Speech from the Throne, and said that every one must have remarked that it contained one great omission. Last year the Government distinctly pledged themselves when the railway Bill was up for discussion, that this session they would bring in a more comprehensive scheme. At that time he brought forward the claims of Galt, his constituency, and argued that its claims were of the very strongest, to a fair proportion of the distribution of the Municipal Loan Fund. (Hear, hear.) But yet not a single word in the speech about the disposition of the surplus. It was not charged that the Government wished to put the money into their pockets, but it was charged against them that their object in securing the control of so large a sum of money was to give them patronage, was to bring railway men to their feet, men who were active in politics as well as in railway matters. That was the object of the Government in asking on all occasions a vote of large sums of money en bloc. That policy had been sweepingly condemned by the country. More Government supporters had lost their seats through that policy than through any other. Therefore it was proper that, when the new House met, the first opportunity should be taken to get the decision of the House upon that policy. He was satisfied that upon that policy the Government had lost the confidence of the country and of the House too. With regard to the amendment of the member for South Norfolk, he believed the effect of it would be to stifle discussion and prevent legislation. He hoped the discussion would not be continued long. He was anxious for the division to take place, and the result was not doubtful.

Mr. WOOD (South Victoria) said that when the Government brought their Address before the House they must have done so in order to obtain not only the opinion but the decision of the House upon it. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, it was certainly competent for the House to declare their decision in the form of any amendment of the Address that they chose to pass. He would, therefore, oppose the amendment of the member for South Norfolk. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SCOTT (North Grey) thought it due to himself to define his position on the question before the House. He was of opinion that the amendment of the member for South Bruce was out of order. It in reality proposed to repeal the act of last session, and therefore should have been introduced in the form of a bill. He referred to the aid that the country had given to the Grand Trunk, and he thought in view of that it was not becoming in the member for Essex to oppose aid to railways running north into the new counties.

Mr. PRINCE wished to correct a wrong impression that some members seemed to have. There seemed to be an impression in the minds of some that the Grand Trunk went through the county of Essex, whereas it did not go within sixty miles of it.

Mr. SCOTT said the Great Western ran through that county, and it received aid. Besides, that county received aid from the Municipal Loan Fund, and should not be object to the new counties receiving some general tone the debate had taken. It might be said that he had allowed himself to be faith to the railways expecting aid to repeal a fool of, but he argued that he was the Railway Aid Act. He thought it would be justified in the course he had taken. He was better to leave the matter in the hands of the Government as at present, as if it was considered that the question involved in the amendment of the member for South Bruce was so important that it should not be dealt with till all the constituencies were represented in the House. Referring question till the vacant seats were filled.

Mr. FAREWELL called attention to the fact that his name was omitted from the division list last night. He voted nay.

Mr. SPEAKER directed the Clerk to insert the hon. gentleman's name on the list.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Blake—Resolution—"That it is expedient to provide that no new registry office shall be established under the Act respecting the establishment of Registry Offices in Ridings, unless a majority of the Revenue of the junior county or riding, or a majority of the members of the Council of the city interested therein desire the establishment thereof."

Parliament of Ontario

SECOND PARLIAMENT--FIRST SESSION

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3:30.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

- Mr. Mackenzie—From Edward Stonehouse, of Strathroy, for the passing of an Act to admit him to the degree of B. A.
- Mr. Graham—From John Johnston and others, of Hastings, for the repeal of certain clauses of the School Act.
- Mr. Wood (Victoria)—From Charles Roger, of Ottawa, respecting his imprisonment for debt.
- Mr. Springer—From the Toronto German Benevolent Society for the passing of an Act of incorporation.
- Mr. Merrick—From John Watts and others, of Walford, for the opening of certain side lines.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved that a Special Committee of eleven members be appointed to strike the Standing Committees for the session, the Committee to consist of the Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. Carling, Messrs McKellar, Blake, Crooks, Wood, (Victoria,) Rykert, Galbraith, Pardee, McCALL and Dr. Boulter.

Mr. BLAKE called attention to the fact that notice should be given of this motion.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he was following a constant practice.

Mr. MACKENZIE said that he was not surprised at the tactics of the gentleman opposite. Four years' experience had shown his trickery and want of statesmanship. He had asked for a fair stand up fight. The Opposition had challenged him to that fight. If ever there was an occasion when a minister should be prepared to do battle, it was on the Address. He defied the Attorney-General to show him a case in which any Government objected to a fair and square vote on the Address. (Cheers.) The House and country had no confidence in the hon. gentleman and his Government; they believed that he had betrayed the confidence of the people, and they were prepared to prove it to-night. (Cheers.) The Attorney-General desired an adjournment in order that during the interval he might manipulate the Bill to suit his own purposes. He had the power to do so.

He defended the free grant policy of the Government, (the late Government he called it,) and commended the late Commissioner on Crown Lands upon his administration of that department. He hoped the friends of the Government would rally to their support.

Mr. GIBBON of South Huron, said that when the late member for that constituency came back, he was asked how it came that he voted to place a large sum of money at the disposal of the Executive. He replied that he voted just what he thought was right. But the people were not satisfied; they did not wish to see money placed at the disposal of the Executive, and not know how it was to be expended. So the late member was elected to stay at home. (Applause.) He (Mr. Gibbon), would like to say a word respecting that great corporation, the Grand Trunk, and the way in which it had treated him. The Commissioner of Public Works—whose brother he (Mr. Gibbon) opposed—came to South Huron and opposed him. A special train brought the Commissioner on from Stratford to Goderich, and he held two meetings there. During this time the train was left to block up the road. His (Mr. Gibbon's) son was conductor, and saw the whole circumstance. (Hear, hear.) It was stated that Mr. Brydges had never tried to influence elections. (A laugh.) But what was the meaning of placing this train at the disposal of the Commissioner of Public Works? (Applause.) Did the Commissioner pay the expenses out of his own pocket? or out of the funds of the Province? or would the shareholders of the company have to pay them? (Hear, hear.) His (Mr. Gibbon's) son was asked to vote against the Brown candidate. He said he had no vote; and then he was asked to use his influence. As to the action of the Grand Trunk in the town of Goderich, he would remark that fifteen of its employees had promised to vote for him, but only one had the courage to do so. They said that it was as much as their situations were worth to vote for him. (Hear, hear.) Still he had 130 of a majority in the town of Goderich. (Cheers.) It would be well that the English shareholders should know that coercion was used upon the employees of the company. (Hear, hear.) It had cost the country sixteen millions, and should be kept free from the influence of any party. (Applause.) The manner in which it had acted, would certainly justify the introduction of the ballot. He then proceeded to speak of the drainage Act. As he understood it, no work was to be done until the municipalities petitioned for it. But in the course of his canvass he found the Government had employed surveyors to survey for drains in the townships of Hay, Stephens, and he thought Stanley also, although those municipalities had steadily refused to petition that the work be done. His opponent stated on the hustings that if the municipalities did not ask for the work to be done they would have to pay the expenses of the surveys that had been made. This was done, no doubt, to create political influence; but it failed in its object. If he was wrong in his statements he would be glad to be corrected by the Commissioner of Public Works.

Hon. Mr. CARLING said the townships of Hay and Stephens had through their Councils asked the Government to make the surveys.

Mr. GIBBON said he had been informed to the contrary. He wished to know how it was that a special train had been placed by the Grand Trunk at the disposal of the hon. gentleman under the circumstances he detailed.

Mr. DEACON argued that though he would have opposed placing the control of the railway aid fund in the hands of the executive, had he been in the House last session, he was justified in now opposing the amendment of the member for South Bruce. Railway enterprises had been begun on the strength of the Act of last session, and it would not be fair to these enterprises to adopt this amendment which he contended must be followed by a repeal of the Act. He was surprised at the member for Kingston taking the course he did, as he had declared himself in favour of the Government railway policy. That gentleman he thought should not complain of friends of the Government attempting to persuade him to support them, because that gentleman had stated that the Opposition would give him as much as the Government.

Mr. ROBINSON denied the statement, and demanded the proof.

Mr. DEACON said that hon. gentleman had told him that he had received as liberal promises in favour of the railway from the hon. member for West Middlesex as from the Government.

Mr. MACKENZIE remarked that as his name had been mentioned he would say that in the speech he had made at Kingston last spring, the hon. gentleman would find a declaration in favour of aid to railways by votes of public money. The hon. member for Kingston had no promise from him more than was contained in that speech.

Mr. DEACON said the hon. gentleman had particularly referred to the Kingston and Pembroke Railway as specially deserving of aid.

Mr. MACKENZIE—And I say so still.

Mr. ROBINSON said that when gentlemen on the Government side had button-holed him for his vote he had told them he was not afraid but that gentlemen on the Opposition side would do as much for railways as the Government. (Cheers.) The member for Renfrew wished to get himself out of trouble by getting him into trouble. That gentleman was an independent member of the House till he got his brother appointed Police Magistrate of Brookville.

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD rose to a point of order. He wished to know if such language was allowable in the House.

Mr. MACKENZIE said if the hon. gentleman objected to the language, he could move that the words be taken down, but he must do so before any other member rose. In connection with this, he would ask if it was right for gentlemen opposite to detail private conversations to the House? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MONTEITH defended the railway policy of the Government, and said he would support the amendment of the member for Norfolk.

It now being six o'clock, the House rose for recess.