

the members of the Government he would like to see grass growing on the streets of Hamilton, the second city of Ontario. (Hear, hear.) The Opposition had gone out of the country weak in numbers, but they had returned to the House a large and gallant band that struck terror into the ranks of the enemy. (Cheers.) He would record his vote most cheerfully for the motion of Mr. Mackenzie. (Applause.)

Mr. WOOD (South Victoria) said he had told the Atty.-General that he should resign after the votes that had been given. He (Mr. Wood) had waited till this evening to see if the Atty.-General would resign. He had not done so. Now he (Mr. Wood) would vote against the motion of Mr. Mackenzie, but in doing so he would consider that every pledge he had given to his constituents as to the manner in which he would act towards the Government had been redeemed.

Mr. HODGINS addressed the House. He said that he regretted to hear from the Atty.-General that it was not the intention of the Ministry to place their resignations in the hands of the Lieut.-Governor. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Hodgins referred to the instances in our past political history, in which Governments had, under less exciting circumstances than the present, tendered their resignation, and remarked that the Government had received their condemnation from the act of the Treasurer. (Applause.) That act was full confirmation of the course pursued by the Opposition. The Commissioner of Crown Lands had charged them with being factionists; but the charge of faction might well be applied to the Government, for the course they pursued was in direct opposition to the wish of the country and of the majority of the House. (Applause.) He would heartily support the vote of want of confidence. (Cheers.)

Mr. BOULTBEE thought that considering the fact that he had worked hard in the interest of the Reform party in times past, he had not been fairly treated by the organs of that party during his recent election. He considered the Opposition a body of men banded together for the purpose of getting into office, and he would vote against the want of confidence motion. He argued that the statements of that motion were incorrect, because the conduct of the Government in the matter of railway aid was not a usurpation fraught with danger to public liberty and constitutional government. He contended that the general course of the Government was one worthy of support. He approved of the proposal to pay witnesses in criminal cases, and argued that it would facilitate the prosecution of criminals.

Mr. TOOLEY also wanted to define his position. He denied that the Railway Aid Act had been used to influence votes in his constituency, and said that he had been elected to support the general policy of the Government and would do so. And if the Opposition got into power he would support all measures they might introduce that he thought to be the best interests of the country.

Mr. SINCLAIR proceeded to give his reasons for voting want of confidence in the Ministry. These reasons might be classed under two heads. First, he condemned them because in 1867 they entered into a conspiracy to rob this country of the best system of Government we could have—a constitutional party Government. It would be impossible to preserve purity of Government if there were not two parties in the House and country. The no-party cry was a result of despotism—the idea that there should be only one view with regard to the Government, and that the view of the Government. The object of this cry was to secure to the Government an indefinite lease of power. He held that the voice of the country during the recent elections had borne testimony to the fact that the Opposition had not been factious during the last Parliament. His second reason for voting against the Government was to put a stop to the policy they had attempted to carry out of giving special favours to constituencies that sent supporters of the Government. The idea was prevalent that an honest man should not be sent to Parliament, but a man who would go in for getting special favours from the Government for his constituency in return for his support given to the Government. That notion was encouraged by the policy of the Government, and it should be protested against. He knew of a constituency that said their member was too honest to be sent to Parliament; that he was more fitted for Heaven than for Parliament, because he could get no favours for his county. These two reasons, he thought, were sufficient to justify him in voting want of confidence in the Government. It was more important to maintain inviolate the principles of constitutional government than to administer properly the ordinary affairs of Government, however important that might be. As to the absence of eight members, his view was, that the representative of Her Majesty had called them together to exercise their whole functions; if that was not the case, it was a mockery calling them together at all.

Mr. DEROCHE remarked that, in his recent election, he was opposed by the Ottawa Government, who sent the Postmaster-General into his constituency to work against him; and also by the Local Government. Had he, when he came to this House, found the leader of the Opposition in power, and had a motion of want of confidence been made against his Government, he (Mr. Deroche) would have voted against it, just as he was going to vote against the motion then before the House. One thing he would like to have seen something about in the Address—a prohibitory liquor law. (Applause.)

Mr. McCALL argued that, as the Government had accepted the motion of the member for South Bruce, they could no longer be charged with an usurpation of public liberty and constitutional government in connection with railway aid. He would, therefore, vote against the motion of want of confidence, although he was opposed to the railway policy embodied in the Railway Aid Act.

The members were then (11:40) called in and the House divided on Mr. Mackenzie's amendment, with the following result: YEAS—Messrs. Barber, Baxter, Blake, Christie, Clarke (Wellington), Clarke (North), Clemons, Cameron, Carling, Christie, Clarke (Wellington), Clarke (North), Clarke (Greenville), Clemons, Cook, Cory, Coyns, Crooks, Crosby, Cumberland, Currie, Dawson, Deac, Fairbairn, Farwell, Ferguson, Finlayson, Gibb, Gibbons, Gibson, Gow, Graham, Grange, Guest, Harrington, Hodgins, Macdonald (Cornwall), Macdonald (Leeds), McCall (North), McCallum, Mackenzie, McKellar, McKinnon, McManus, McRae, Monteth, Oliver, Pardee, Paterson, Paxton, Perry, Prince, Esad Al Haris, Robinson, Sexton, Sinclair, Smith, Springer, Tooley, Webb, Williams (Durham), Williams (Hamilton), Wilson Wood (Brant), Wood (Victoria). 64.

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YEAS—Messrs. Barber, Baxter, Blake, Bouthier, Cameron, Carling, Christie, Clarke (Wellington), Clarke (North), Clarke (Greenville), Clemons, Cook, Cory, Coyns, Crooks, Crosby, Cumberland, Currie, Dawson, Deac, Fairbairn, Farwell, Ferguson, Finlayson, Gibb, Gibbons, Gibson, Gow, Graham, Grange, Guest, Harrington, Hodgins, Macdonald (Cornwall), Macdonald (Leeds), McCall (North), McCallum, Mackenzie, McKellar, McKinnon, McManus, McRae, Monteth, Oliver, Pardee, Paterson, Paxton, Perry, Prince, Esad Al Haris, Robinson, Sexton, Sinclair, Smith, Springer, Tooley, Webb, Williams (Durham), Williams (Hamilton), Wilson Wood (Brant), Wood (Victoria). 64.

The SPEAKER therefore declared the motion carried.

Mr. BLAKE said after what had taken place, the Government might carry their Address through as it was amended, though his side of the House did not intend to give it any further consideration. The House had expressed its opinions, and it was for the Government, if they chose, to carry that opinion to His Excellency.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he believed the Speaker was elected to support the Government, and with his vote the result would have been a tie. The Government intended to present the Address to His Excellency and take the responsibility of getting such an answer as would justify their position.

Mr. MACKENZIE said the Government had little cause for congratulation. Two members who voted for him on this vote had declared that they had voted a censure upon him yesterday, and did not want to repeat the dose to-day. The hon. gentleman had no right to allude to the Speaker as he had. It was a fair inference that the Cabinet was not a unit on this matter when they found the Premier coming down to the House, and declaring that the Government would pay no attention to the vote of censure, and immediately after the Treasurer announcing his resignation. He referred to the dastardly act of intrigue which had excluded one of the Opposition (Mr. Fraser) from the House, thus depriving that side of another vote. As it was, the Government could be beaten any time they wished. (Cheers.) The Government lectured the Opposition on responsibility of government—a Government that debauched its office come what might—that had been eaten in spite of all their efforts and was gone. (Applause.) It was needless for the Opposition to point out the position of the Government, the gentlemen of the press would record it, and the public would hear of it. And it was needless to do anything more than mention the fact in order to bring down on the Government a storm of opprobrium that would cause even their hardened faces to blanch with fear. (Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said the two parties stood on an equality in the House, and when the elections for the vacant seats were held it would be found that the Government had a majority in that House. He believed that the electors of Northumberland would return a member to sit on the Ministerial side of the House. Mr. Cameron was proceeding to refer to the Speaker, when he was called to order by that gentleman, and immediately made some allusions to the honourable members for Essex and Kingston, for which he was also called to order.

An allusion to the Hon. Mr. Wood called that gentleman to his feet.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that no hon. member had been made acquainted with his determination to resign his office. The only member to whom he had hinted his intentions was the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Rykert).

The succeeding paragraphs of the address were then agreed to, and a formal motion with regard to its presentation to His Excellency was carried.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL that the address be read a second time,

Mr. BLAKE called for the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were taken amid great laughter, for the Government were thus compelled to vote for the address which had been amended by the act of the Opposition. The yeas—64; nays—6.

YEAS—Messrs. Barber, Baxter, Blake, Bouthier, Cameron, Carling, Christie, Clarke (Wellington), Clarke (North), Clarke (Greenville), Clemons, Cook, Cory, Coyns, Crooks, Crosby, Cumberland, Currie, Dawson, Deac, Fairbairn, Farwell, Ferguson, Finlayson, Gibb, Gibbons, Gibson, Gow, Graham, Grange, Guest, Harrington, Hodgins, Macdonald (Cornwall), Macdonald (Leeds), McCall (North), McCallum, Mackenzie, McKellar, McKinnon, McManus, McRae, Monteth, Oliver, Pardee, Paterson, Paxton, Perry, Prince, Esad Al Haris, Robinson, Sexton, Sinclair, Smith, Springer, Tooley, Webb, Williams (Durham), Williams (Hamilton), Wilson Wood (Brant), Wood (Victoria). 64.

Mr. BLAKE in a few humorous remarks twitted the Government with the sudden access to its majority; and complimented the Government on having voted want of confidence in themselves. (Laughter.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he wished the Opposition luck with their vote.

Mr. MACKENZIE, in a few remarks, gave the Government to understand that if the Attorney-General meant to hint that he had the sanction of the Lieut.-Governor for his course in threatening not to resign, he must bring a written or verbal statement to that effect. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—The Government on Monday will give the proper explanations. The Attorney-General then moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. MACKENZIE—We consent. The Address, as amended, was then passed.

The House adjourned at 12.40.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. McKellar—Bill entitled "An Act to render Members of the House of Commons of Canada ineligible for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

Parliament of Ontario

SECOND PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD laid on the table the Public Accounts of the Province for last year.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY. Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—In obedience to the Order of the House the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, was presented to His Excellency and he has been pleased to make the following reply, which I now place in your hands.

Mr. SPEAKER read the reply, which was as follows:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,—

I thank you for your dutiful and loyal Address and the assurances that the important subjects submitted to you will receive your best attention. With reference to that portion of the answer to the Speech which expresses a disapproval by the Legislative Assembly to the large powers given to the executive, under the act passed by the last Legislature, appropriating one million and a half of dollars in aid of railways, and in which I am informed that the House has no confidence in a Ministry which has attempted to carry out in reference to the control of the said appropriation, an usurpation fraught with danger to public liberty and constitutional Government, I have to observe that no action has been taken by my advisers in regard to the distribution of any portion of the said fund, except in accordance with the powers vested in them by virtue of the act referred to, and that I will give every constitutional consideration to any bill that may be presented to me for my sanction, either repealing or amending the said act.

(Signed) W. P. HOWLAND.

Mr. BLAKE rose and said that they were now in a critical position. The address to His Excellency—to which a gracious reply was now received—showed absolutely the want of confidence of the House in His Excellency's Ministers—or rather in that late Administration which still remained in office. (Hear, hear.) The address voted upon on Friday informed His Excellency that the House condemned the policy of the Administration on the most important question submitted to the consideration of Parliament during the four years of its existence. (Hear, hear.) By the decisive votes that had been given, His Excellency was informed that the House condemned the policy of the Government, and, as far as in it lay, reversed the policy of the Government in this particular, deeming it dangerous to public liberty and constitutional Government. His Excellency was also informed that this House had no confidence in the present Ministry. The House had received a reply, gracious indeed, but which did not signify His Excellency's course on this particular subject. The House did not tell His Excellency that they accused the Government of having exceeded their powers in the Railway Act, but they had told His Excellency that they condemned the Government for having obtained that Act—as it was an Act calculated to injure the independence of the House, and to be dangerous to public liberty. (Hear, hear.) It did not appear to him that this House ought to receive—having voted, as it had done—the defence the Ministry had put forward, unless some further action were taken. (Hear, hear.) It appeared to him that the House was bound to follow up its step taken the other day, with a more decisive step still. He had hoped, and the Government's best friends had hoped, that nothing further than the vote of Friday evening would have been necessary. He had thought that the Government would have had sufficient self-respect not to have returned to advise his Excellency to give an answer of this kind. (Applause.) He had ventured to state that they should not have ventured to advise his Excellency at all. He believed that it was the sentiment of the House, and the country, and of all parties, that they ought, in accordance with the spirit of the constitution, to have resigned their offices.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. BLAKE said there was one thing not noticed in the gracious answer—it was that there was no allusion to the vacant seats as a reason why the Government should not resign. (Hear, hear.) The Ministry had not fallen so low as to put that sentiment in his Excellency's mouth. (Applause.) This was a Ministry that preached the virtues of responsible Government—a ministry that would not obey the House, although they proclaimed themselves its servants! (Hear, hear.) The House and country were now in a critical position,—in a position far beyond the mere question whether one side or the other should occupy the Ministerial benches. This side of the House was now defending the constitution against the assaults of gentlemen opposite. (Cheers.) He appealed to those gentlemen who, though on the other side of the House, had expressed it as their opinion that the Ministers would resign—to see that these Ministers should bow to the constitutional decision of the House. He called on every member of that House to sustain the dignity of Parliament and responsible government, and to vindicate the rights of the House as expressed by the majority. (Applause.) He called on them not to strain or violate the constitution; but as the Government had lost the confidence of the House, to see that the Government followed the course dictated by the constitution. (Applause.) He would move the following amendment:—

"That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, representing—

"That this House has received His Excellency's gracious reply to the address of this House, adopted on Friday last.

"That this House was invited by His Excellency's Ministers to consider the gracious speech of His Excellency delivered at the opening of the session, and to proceed with the work of the Assembly, notwithstanding that some of the constituencies were unrepresented.

"That this House was thus declared to be, as it in fact was and is, competent in its present state to deal with all questions which might be brought before it.

"That the discussion of the proposed Address in reply to His Excellency's gracious speech involved the question of the approval or condemnation of the policy of Ministers, and they themselves, in the course of the debate, challenged an expression of the feeling of the House towards them.

"That Ministers have been defeated in each of the four divisions which have taken place, and have never had control of the House.

"That the Ministerial policy on a most important question has been condemned and reversed by a decisive vote of this House, which has declared its want of confidence in Ministers.

"That the Provincial Treasurer has, in consequence of the hostile attitude of the House, resigned his office.

"That the continuance in office of the remaining Ministers is under existing circumstances at variance with the spirit of the constitution.

"That the supplies voted by this House will lapse on the 31st day of December instant, and this House would be wanting to its duty if it should not before that time (as was done under like circumstances last year) make provision for the expenditure, under Ministers possessing its confidence, of the monies necessary to carry on the public service until the final estimates for the ensuing year can be voted.

"That this House regrets that the remaining Ministers should have advised His Excellency to continue them in office, and humbly prays that His Excellency will be graciously pleased to consider of the representations contained in this Address."

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that he refused to resign because he believed that the strength of parties would be altered by the approaching elections. He did not admit the Parliamentary doctrine, which said that because a vote of want of confidence was expressed by a majority of one or by twenty, that a Government must necessarily resign. It would be for a Government to consider whether the exigencies of their position, or the duty they owed to their country, themselves and their supporters, should induce them to retain their seats, when by retaining them, the public interests would not be in danger. It would be cruel and treacherous on the part of the Government to resign until the vacant seats were filled, and whilst the Government had every reason to believe that the elections would result in their favour. It was well known that the last elections were—

ple. (Derisive.) They were so held to oblige some political friends of the Government, who said that they could succeed best if the elections were not held in the summer time. (Laughter.) But all the friends of the Government were not successful, and it was but fair that the Government should wait till their friends were returned; and they expected this would be the case at the approaching elections.

When Parliament met after the elections the Opposition did not dare to bring in a motion, stating that the Government had misapplied the money, either with regard to the railway act, or the drainage act, or any other measure giving the Government power to spend money. Therefore he contended that the onslaught cast upon the Government was not justifiable, and it was gratifying to them to know that only one feature of their policy was attacked. He held that all the powers to spend money given to the Government by the late Legislature were asked for and received for the sole purpose of benefitting the country, and not to keep them in power. He went on to say that the policy of the Opposition in regard to public expenditure would open the way to "log-rolling" and fraud in the Legislature, just as it was in Albany. It would destroy the responsibility of Ministers. He expected that, if this thing went on, to find the Opposition contending that every little appointment under the Government should be submitted to the House before it was made, and thus the functions of the Government would be taken away from them. He freely admitted that they had arrived at a crisis, and the Government fully felt the responsibility of the position in which they were placed. There were many precedents to justify their course in not resigning in the face of a vote of non-confidence. He referred to the action of the Government of Canada in 1843 as a case in point. That Government held on to its office and were not defeated till 1848. He contended that the general course of the present Government was acceptable to the country at large, and argued that the railway appropriation was one above all others that should not be condemned. He went on to denounce the proposal of Mr. Blake last session with regard to the distribution of a portion of the surplus, and repeated that it was a matter of satisfaction to the Government that the vote of censure was confined to one particular act. Not one charge of mal-administration had been preferred against the Government. He was not prepared, in justice to the country, to say that they ought to accept the resolution before the House. He repudiated the charge that he was concerned either directly or indirectly in the resignation of Mr. Fraser. He said that the member for West Middlesex had received letters from the parties who had been so charged repudiating the charge, and he called upon that gentleman to produce them.

Mr. MACKENZIE said the Attorney-General had called upon him, and asked if he had received letters on this matter from Mr. King, of the Montreal Bank, and Mr. Stephen, and he told him he had, but that he was not in a position to bring the matter before the House to-day. He would say, however, that these letters did not contain a full denial of the charge that had been made.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said the House should have the benefit of the denial, such as it was. He proceeded to make further remarks upon this subject, when he was called to order by Mr. Speaker and requested to confine himself to the resolution before the House. He then went on to say that they were within two or three days of the time for adjournment for the holidays. He thought the expression of the House already made, and that they should allow the House to adjourn till some time in January, when the elections would be over and then they could test the strength of the House fairly. If it should then prove that the Government were in a minority, no man would more gladly resign his place than he would, as he had done on a former occasion.