

want of information in regard to the payment of criminal witnesses. He had thought he was fully acquainted with that measure. It was true he was not much acquainted with it while he was in the Government, because his Government brought in no Bill in reference to it during the four years they were in office, and he, therefore, supposed they did not know enough of the causes which demanded such payment. Since that, however, his hon. friend had gained a great deal of light on the question. When the present Government came into office, he thought they should legislate upon it in their very first session, and yet he now professed to be entirely ignorant in regard to it.

Mr. CAMERON—I did not profess any ignorance; I merely asked for information.

Mr. MOWAT said he knew no reason for giving information except to remove ignorance. (Cheers.) The hon. gentleman had not argued that immediate legislation was necessary in the first session only, but in each subsequent session of the late Parliament, and now he intimated that before voting upon that paragraph he needed to know whether there were any causes for the payment of criminal witnesses and what they were. (Laughter and cheers.) He (Mr. Mowat) gave his hon. friend credit for more knowledge than he professed to have. Every member of the House and the whole country knew what the causes were, and the reason why the Government had not legislated earlier was not that it was not desirable that these witnesses should be paid, but that there were great difficulties surrounding the subject, and that during the last Parliament he was not satisfied how the matter should be dealt with. They had had abundance of legislation before them every session. The House had adopted important measures on important subjects, as important as any which had occupied the attention of the Legislature at any time. They had now substantially disposed of these questions, and that in a way satisfactory to the country, and they proposed to devote themselves to what subjects remained to be dealt with, among others being the payment of criminal witnesses. He complimented the mover and seconder of the resolution upon the manner in which they had performed the duty assigned to them. (Cheers.)

Mr. MACDOUGALL said this was a new House, and as a new member he thought the request for information was pertinent. He called the attention of the Attorney-General to the fact that there had been a change in the Administration, and that it was usual on this occasion to give information as to the cause of the change. With reference to the question of immigration, the House ought not to be called upon to affirm any knowledge of the matter, unless the gentleman who had charge of the Department gave the House some outline of the facts. His opinion was that the new system had not been carried on with economy, that it was a very cumbersome and inefficient system, and that this Province had been spending a great deal of money unnecessarily. With respect to education he had no reason to believe that the Chief Superintendent had, without pressure, and the embarrassment which had arisen from the action of this Government and the previous Legislature, expressed his inefficiency further to continue the business of his Department. Some information ought to be given in reference to this, and reasons for the proposed change. The question of the payment of criminal witnesses he left in the hands of the member for East Toronto. He considered it a blot upon our system that persons were obliged to come, at great expense to themselves, in order to assist in the administration of justice without any compensation. He hoped the Government would remedy this crying abuse. In regard to the matters in difference with the Province of Quebec, he remarked that negotiations might be prolonged to the end of time, and he did not think they ought to congratulate themselves upon being in possession of other people's money. (Laughter.) At all events some information on the subject was required. The question in reference to the northerly and westerly boundaries he regarded as a very serious one. He was not glad to know that anything was expected, because he believed that all the evidence which was necessary to enable the Government to take their course had long been in their hands. They ought not to have entered into any negotiation for a compromised line. He denied that they had any authority to compromise the rights

of this Province in reference to that territory, and he should be very sorry to give his assent to any proposed compromise. Explanations were necessary on this subject. The Attorney-General should explain the changes which had taken place in his Administration—why a gentleman who was regarded by many as a pillar of the Government had left his place. Was he dissatisfied with the policy of the Government? was he unable to agree to its proposed legislation? or for what reason had he left his position and found refuge in an office where he was no longer responsible to the House? Why had another gentleman left his independent position and acceded to a Government with such a policy as they found in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech? He could find nothing there that was affirmative. No great reform was proposed. The payment of criminal witnesses was nothing startling, but was one of those old standing paragraphs which had found a place in every Speech from the Throne. He saw no difficulty in giving assent to the submission of the business of the country to the House. That was a merely formal matter, but he thought, before even that formal assent was given, some explanation should be given by the Government.

Mr. MOWAT said he acknowledged the propriety of making some statement in reference to the change in the membership of the Administration, but his statement would be very short, and he could not pretend that it would add anything to the information hon. gentlemen already possessed. The reason of Mr. McKellar's withdrawal from the Administration and from Parliament was certainly not that which the hon. gentleman suggested. It certainly was not that he was dissatisfied with the policy of the Government, or felt any difficulty in concurring in their legislation. Mr. McKellar had been in public life for eighteen years. His long attention to public matters, to the neglect of his private affairs, was something from which the public derived great benefit, but which was no benefit to himself. His friends thought that, having served his country for that long time, he might with propriety retire from public life, and although it was very agreeable to himself and suited his taste, and although he had for eighteen years rendered great service to the country and the party which was honoured by his adhesion, he yielded to the suggestions of his friends, and notwithstanding the sense the Government had of the great importance of his services, notwithstanding what they knew of the heavy blows he was in the habit of administering to honourable gentlemen opposite (hear, hear) and their friends throughout the country, and the great power which he exerted in election contests, they did not feel at liberty to insist that he should remain in public life, or refuse to confer upon him the important public office which he now held, and which he was sure all the members of the House on both sides desired that he should long live to enjoy. A vacancy having been created by the retirement of Mr. McKellar, it became necessary for the Government to consider whom they should ask to take his place, and in selecting Mr. Wood they selected one who had as much of the confidence of the country as any hon. member he knew of. The hon. member for South Victoria during the four years that he had occupied a seat in the House had shown that he possessed large abilities, business talent, familiarity with and aptitude for public affairs, and that he would be likely to be of great service to the country in the position he now held. He had occupied an independent position before, as did every supporter of the Government. The Government had supporters, because they believed in them as the country believed in them. (Cheers.) They had received his support, as they did that of other members, because of the efficiency of their Government and the sound legislation which they had given to the country, and because he had not doubted, as their other friends did not doubt, that what they had been in the past they would always be in the future. His hon. friends opposite had made great exertions to prevent Mr. Wood from returning to this House. In fact they had the whole Riding to themselves for about a week, and did all they could to secure his rejection and deprive the country of his valuable services. It was extremely satisfactory to know that their exertions were without avail. The hon. member for South Simcoe—he had seen it in print that he did represent that Riding, though it was incomprehensible to him (laughter)—