

Municipal Loan Fund settlement. He expressed his determination to give the Government a fair and independent support, and his belief that the Government was as strong as when they appealed to the country. It was charged against the Reformers that one of their leaders had been guilty of an act of indiscretion in asking subscriptions towards election expenses, and undoubtedly he should receive the condemnation of the Reform party for that act. At the same time, when Sir John Macdonald had been guilty of receiving funds for the purpose of corrupting the electors, and of selling the Pacific charter, his friends were willing not only to follow his leadership, but to place him in the front of the party. That circumstance did not show much consistency on the part of the Conservative party. It was essential to the well being of the province that the Government should be honestly and purely administered. He believed that the present Reform Government in this Province, although they might have their faults, administered its affairs in such a way as to secure the confidence and co-operation of the people. The election law as interpreted by the judges needed some few amendments; among others that the candidate should not be responsible for the acts of his agents. He was prepared to support a policy introduced by the Government for liberal grants to railways to develop the country. The objection taken to the railway policy of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald was that he sought to take from the peoples' representatives the right of controlling the grants to railway enterprises. He hoped that when the next appeal to the country was made, the record of the present Government would be such that they would be returned for another term of four years.

Mr. FLESHER thought that while the Government possessed a majority in the House, the Opposition had been so strengthened as to ensure more prudent legislation during the ensuing session, as compared with that of previous sessions. The election law he considered was a disgrace to the Province, and required serious amendment, whereby no candidate should be made responsible for the acts of agents whom he could not control, but the agents be made responsible for their own acts. The law in regard to a candidate taking a glass of beer should be somewhat relaxed, and some time should be fixed within which bills of particulars should be filed. He thoroughly approved of the adoption of a liberal railway policy. During the election canvass he had stated that some of the acts of the Government were such that if a direct vote of want of confidence were proposed his first vote would be against them, but if the measures introduced by the Government were such as to be in the interests of the Province he would give them his earnest and hearty support.

Mr. LYON, as a thorough Reformer, was prepared to give the Government his full support. He approved of the proposed change in the Education Department, whereby its efficiency would be increased. The railway policy, he hoped, would be of a liberal character, and tend to the development of the back country.

Dr. BARR said he was returned as a Liberal Conservative, to support the Opposition so long as they performed their duty in that capacity, and not give a factious opposition to Government measures. He would support all good measures introduced into the House, and his position would be that of a member perfectly free and independent of all party ties.

Mr. KEAN remarked that he would support many of the measures foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne if they were drawn in the public interest. He was returned as an independent member, but so long as the Government legislated in the interests of the people of this Province he would accord them his cordial and hearty support. At the same time he desired it to be thoroughly understood that he would watch the course of legislation, and whenever the Government ceased to do what was right, he would vote for the leader of the Opposition being called to office.

Mr. CAMERON said it had been stated that the hon. member for South Simcoe had been inconsistent in deserting the Reform ranks in order to assist him as the leader of the Opposition. In former times, it was true, they had been politically opposed. The member for South Simcoe then belonged to Reform party, and he (Mr. Cameron), though a Conservative, claimed to be an independent man. The hon. member for South Simcoe was then one of the politicians of the time,

and he (Mr. Cameron) had used language in reference to that gentleman as not serving the interests of the country when he was serving his party. At Confederation he and other leading Reformers joined Sir John Macdonald and other leading Conservatives to devise means to put an end to partizan strife, and since that he had been consistent in his course and had acted as a man desiring to serve the interests of his country; and though he did make a speech belittling the influence which he (Mr. Cameron) possessed in this House, and the action of the Opposition during the last session, and though it was said that if elected to this House he would supplant and supersede him (Mr. Cameron) as leader of the Opposition, he yet gave him his support in South Simcoe, without which support in all probability it would have been impossible for him to have secured a seat there. He did it because he desired to have this House elevated, and because he desired to have his assistance, or to assist him in endeavouring to remove hon. gentlemen opposite, not because he was ambitious of attaining the position, but in order to teach them that they ought not to get into power except by virtue of their measures being superior to those of the men who preceded them. He contrasted the public works carried out by the Sandfield Macdonald Government with those of the present Administration, who had, he alleged, attained office by a trick. He defended the policy of the Sandfield Macdonald Government in relation to the Railway Aid Fund. Referring to his allegation that the Commissioner of Public Works had endeavoured to stir up religious contests, he said no one deprecated anything like religious contention more than he did, but he had taken the stand, since the formation of the Catholic League, that the Roman Catholics were going to do that which would be injurious not only to the State, but to themselves, by the course they were pursuing. He had said that it could not be tolerated, and that the safety of the State would not permit it, but he had never said anything which would be insulting to a Roman Catholic or would hurt his feelings. He had condemned the course of the Commissioner of Public Works in going into different constituencies where there were a large number of Catholics, and bringing influence to bear there. That he did so in South Victoria there was no doubt. When the Conservatives had found Catholics coming forward and claiming to have no particular merit by reason of being Catholics, but claiming the support of their fellow-citizens simply as members of the community, they had assisted them as warmly as they assisted Protestants. Referring to the question of immigration, he said the present Government had expended \$134,640 in 1874 to bring out 23,842 immigrants, while in 1871 the late Government expended only \$29,672 and brought out 25,842 immigrants. The organization of the plan by which immigrants were introduced into the country economically was due to the Government of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald. He was glad to find that there was a very great deal more debating talent in the House than in previous sessions, and that nearly every member had declared his independence. If that declaration were true, it numbered the days of the hon. gentlemen opposite, because the developments of the Public Accounts Committee and the insufficiency of the Government legislation would lead hon. gentlemen to vote with the Opposition, to put better men in the places of the present Administration. (Applause.)

Mr. FRASER said that an expression conveying to the House the idea that the country was ready to displace the present Government and put in the "better men" of the Opposition would have come with more force from some one else than the leader of the Opposition. The country had recently had a very fair opportunity of pronouncing upon this very question; it had said that the hon. member for East Toronto and his friends were not quite so good men as those opposed to them, and had therefore left them just exactly where they had been before. (Hear, hear.) He would not refer to the question of railway aid further than to repeat what had been stated over and over again in the House and country, and was the best answer to all that had been said on the subject to-night by Opposition members, that the people had most emphatically condemned Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's Railway Aid Scheme, and that to that scheme his loss of power was mainly due. He (Mr. Fraser) had been very considerably amused during