

fancied the work was much the same all the year round. Two members of the Government having been absent at the time this change was made, showed that at that time there was no reason for the change.

Mr. MOWAT said he had no complaint to make of the tone of his hon. friend's criticism on the present occasion. Whatever could be said against the Government the hon. gentleman had no doubt said. With reference to the appointment of a sixth Minister, he had said that the absence of two Ministers for a few weeks during the summer showed that the appointment of the additional Minister was unnecessary, but the hon. gentleman forgot that their absence was only rendered possible by the appointment of a sixth Minister. (Hear, hear.) He did not propose to enter into a discussion of the transference of the Education Department to a member of the Government. He would only say that the change was strongly urged upon the Government by the distinguished gentleman who for thirty years had charge of the Department, and who was perhaps more familiar with the educational wants of the public than any other man in the Province. (Hear, hear.) After a long and constant watching of public affairs, the conclusion to which that gentleman came—not suddenly, but years before he retired from office—was that the interests of education had now reached a point when it was necessary that they should be in the charge of a responsible Minister. The Government acted upon that advice, and he believed the country approved of what they did. (Hear, hear.) It was no doubt to a certain extent an experiment, but so far it was a successful one. He was satisfied that since there had been a Minister of Education, much more had been done to promote that important matter than at any previous period, simply because a Minister of Education had greater power than any superintendent, not a member of the Government, could possibly have. The hon. member for East Toronto had found so little in the Speech to disapprove of that, in order to make a point against the Government, he had said that they were claiming the bountiful harvest. He (Mr. Mowat) would reassure his hon. friend on that point that the Government had nothing to do with the harvest, but simply rejoiced at it. There were some politicians who did ascribe a bad harvest to a Reform Government, but the principle on which they proceeded was not one which commended itself either to his hon. friend or himself. The hon. gentlemen had expressed his disagreement with the mover and the seconder of the resolution with regard to the question of employing prisoners without gaol limits, contending that persons convicted of breaches of civil laws should not be subjected to hard labour, like those guilty of particular crimes. But hard labour, the hon. gentleman knew, was not a portion of the sentence except in aggravated cases amounting to moral as well as legal crimes. He had said that they had no jurisdiction to make a particular offence a crime. The violation, however, of a provincial law was decided to be a misdemeanour, and was therefore a crime.

Mr. CAMERON—You cannot deal with that.

Mr. MOWAT said they could not, of course, change any law made by the Dominion Legislature; but there were laws made by the Ontario Legislature which the people were bound to obey, and the breach of which constituted a crime. He might say here that he was extremely gratified at the way in which the mover and seconder of the resolution had discharged the duties they assumed. His hon. friend from West Huron had often addressed the House since he became a member of it, and they had frequently obtained valuable assistance from him. And his hon. friend from East York had shown himself on this, as on other occasions, to be well acquainted with the subjects on which he spoke. The hon. member from East Toronto complained that there was very little in the Address. It would be well to direct attention to what was the purpose of the Speech from the Throne and what it should contain. It had been laid down as the result of practice in regard to the Speeches from the Throne in Eng-

land, and in regard to the Speeches from the representatives of Her Majesty in this country, that the purpose was that the Speech should contain a reference to some of the leading events of the year, or since the former session of the Legislature—events bearing upon the government and legislation of the country, and that it should also contain a reference in a general way to some of the measures which the Government intended to submit to the House. That was exactly what the Speeches delivered here, at Ottawa, and in England, contained. In the Speech were congratulations with regard to some measures formerly passed, which was entirely in accordance with usage. The particular subjects to which it referred were referred to in almost every Speech from the Throne delivered since Confederation. Let hon. members look at the Speeches which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cameron) himself assisted in preparing—let them look at the very last Speech that he and his Government prepared after four or five years of government. In the present Speech, since it was the custom to name some, there were four or five measures, at all events, mentioned, while there was only one single measure mentioned in the Speech he referred to as prepared by the hon. gentleman, after so much experience—(hear, hear)—and that was a recommendation to the House of a Bill for the payment of witnesses in criminal cases, a measure which the present Government had since carried into law. (Cheers.) His hon. friend had referred to the paragraph of the Speech relating to railway matters. That was a matter which had been referred to in several Speeches from the Throne before the present Government came into office, and of course it was an important one. The hon. gentleman had expressed the hope that the Government would not this year bring down Orders in Council granting aid to railways without giving the House longer time to consider them; but he had forgotten that the statute which provided that Orders in Council should be brought down and approved by the House had spent itself. The money was now appropriated by statute in the usual way—originating in resolutions, which passed through Committee, and then the Bill founded upon them was brought down. And even when the old system prevailed, as the hon. gentleman would remember, though he (Mr. Cameron) might have thought that sufficient time had not been given the House for consideration. The greater number of the hon. gentleman's own friends were of an entirely different opinion. (Hear, hear.) He believed that nearly every railway which had been aided since the Government were in office had been built, and certainly a greater number than one could reasonably have expected beforehand. These projects could not always be successful; there was never perfect certainty about their going into effect. A great deal had to be done in the way of raising money, for the House contributed but a very small portion of the whole amount required; sometimes expectations that were formed were not realized, though there might be good grounds for them at the time. The money market might change, and other circumstances arise which could not possibly be anticipated. He did not think that any portion of the public expenditure since Confederation had produced larger fruits than that devoted to railway aid. (Hear, hear.) By the expenditure of a comparatively small sum a large mileage had been built, and the country was now deriving large benefits from that expenditure. He would not refer at length to what the hon. gentleman had said in reference to rumours of mismanagement of timber matters. The hon. member knew that there were always a great many rumours for which there was no foundation for every one that had a foundation, and he would find that this rumour belonged to the larger class. The hon. gentleman did not agree with the other speakers as to the propriety of making a distribution of the statutes amongst the magistracy of the country; but he would find that his opinions on that subject were not in accord with the sentiments of the people and