

name of the mover and seconder. The name of the hon. member for West Toronto had been placed on the paper as the mover, but he evidently would have nothing to do with it, for the name of the present mover was substituted. It was a piece of cut work placed in his hand to be done mechanically, with no power on his part to alter or amend it. He (the speaker) wondered if the mover knew what it was about, or whether the seconder had any idea of what was in it. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He thought he had proven beyond all question that the member for South Simcoe until the motion was placed in his hands did not know what he was going to move, and that many of those who had formerly approved of the increases did not know that they were going to condemn their own action. If that amendment carried, hon. gentlemen opposite would be guilty of an act of political treachery the like of which was not known in the history of any political party in this country. (Loud cheers.) If they proposed to rally around their new leader with his new departure in political dishonesty, let them do so; let them send up their flag to the masthead; let them nail it there so firmly that it could not be hauled down again, and let them inscribe on it the one sentence, "Dishonoured for party purposes." (Loud cheers.) He did not feel physically able to discuss this matter further. He should like to have said a little in the direction of pointing out to the thinking people of this country, who very rightly had been complaining of hard times, of stringency in the money and labour markets, and of the dearth of industry in the Province of Ontario, what the action of this Government had been in mitigating the suffering and poverty so far as it had gone. He should like to have pointed out that it had been the wise management of public affairs by this Government, and their extension of the railway system of Ontario to more than double what it was at the time of Confederation, and that during this very time of depression—(hear, hear)—that enabled our people to bear the depression. He should like to have pointed out to what extent trade and industry were stimulated by their expenditure of fully one hundred millions within the last seven or eight years in aid of railway enterprise. He should like to have shown how every dollar of that expenditure must have penetrated to almost every part of the Province, and that if the times had been stringent, the chances were a thousand to one that they would have been by far more stringent if they had not taken the surplus and distributed it in the way they had done. He should like to have pointed out that they had greatly aided the people in bearing this depression by distributing money to the municipalities; and if it could be truly said that we in Ontario had felt the depression less than any other country on this continent—(hear, hear)—it was because for several years the Ontario Government had been taking from the surplus funds of the Province, and had distributed it among the people, stimulating public works and improvements, the erection of school houses and other public buildings, and the construction of colonization roads and bridges, and inducing the municipalities themselves to spend millions of dollars in addition. He should like to have shown that by their drainage legislation they had induced the farmers of the Province to make improvements and to spend money in draining their lands. The clamour of people, when times were hard, and when the pinch was at the door, had always been that the Government of the day should invest money in public works. Well, the present Government could claim that they had done that to the last dollar that it was wise to spend—(cheers)—and on that ground this Government deserved to be sustained by the people of Ontario, irrespective of party lines—(hear, hear)—because they had refused to do what had been constantly urged by hon. gentlemen opposite and their newspapers—viz., to close up their coffers and to refuse to relieve the distress of the people. (Cheers.) When hon. gentlemen found it to be a popular cry, they had not scrupled to talk a great deal about relieving the distress; but when any measure of credit was due to the Government of Ontario for the work they were doing, their harangues were directed to make the peo-

ple of the Province believe that the surplus funds of the Province should be locked up and the expenditure cut down in order that a larger surplus still might be piled up. Whatever the Government had spent, they had spent wisely and well, and for the good of the people themselves? (Cheers.) They had helped the people, and they ought to be sustained by the people in turn. (Loud cheers.) A good deal had been said by the member for East Grey upon the fact that the members of the Government had taken part in the late Dominion elections. He had attacked their action upon two grounds, viz., that the increase in the Ministers' salaries was only given upon the assumption that they would give their whole time to the administration of the affairs of the Province, and that it had always been a plank in their platform not to interfere in Dominion elections. He denied both statements, without qualification or reserve. (Cheers.) He would not discuss whether the arguments used by the members of the Ontario Government in the late controversy were right or wrong. The issues yet remained to be tried, and they were no more legitimate subjects of discussion in this House than the route of the proposed Pacific Railway, or any other matter relating to purely Dominion affairs. But he wished to say that there was nothing in the debate when the increase of salaries was given to the members of the Government, as reported at the time in either of the leading papers, that warranted the assertion of the member for East Grey that a pledge was given, or required by this House, that the undivided time of the Ministers should be given to the Public Departments. It was not contended that the Ministers had neglected their duties either before or after that increase, and in the reports of the debate it would be found that the then Treasurer, now the Minister of Education, had said that the Ministers were prepared to give all the time that was necessary to public affairs, even if their salaries were not increased. And the Attorney-General declared in the face of the House that the Government had had no intention of increasing the salaries of Ministers, and would not have done so had not the proposal been forced upon them. (Cheers.) In regard to the other ground of accusation that the hon. member for East Grey brought against them, he recognized to the fullest the principle that the utterances of accredited party leaders, if unrepudiated by their followers, were binding upon the party. But there was nothing in the speech made by Mr. Blake on the occasion he had referred to which indicated that it was a plank in the party platform that members of the Government had not as private citizens a right to take part in Dominion elections. And if they were to have a fair idea of the position of Mr. Blake at that time, they must bear in mind that while he was from his place in this House, as Premier of Ontario, announcing the policy of his Government, he was at the same time a member of the House of Commons. And he was announcing the policy of his Government, not for some future date, but a policy that was to bind him and them from that time forward.

Mr. MEREDITH—He was proposing the abolition of dual representation.

Mr. FRASER—The abolition of dual representation would not do away with the rights of Ministers as private citizens. The proposal to do away with dual representation was based upon particular reasons, no one of them being that a member of the Local Government should not put himself right before the people as to Dominion affairs. When Mr. Blake announced that policy he enunciated it in relation to his then position. Did anybody believe that Mr. Blake intended to give up his place in the House of Commons, or to forego his right to discuss Dominion affairs there? He did not intend to do any such thing, and his words would not bear such a construction. He read from Mr. Blake's speech of the 22nd of December, 1871, to show that while he believed that the Government of the Province should be absolutely independent of that of the Dominion, the members of the former were not to be debarred from taking part in elections relating to Dominion matters. His words were, "As citizens of Canada, as members of the Legislature of Canada, those of us who, like myself, hold such a position, are bound to fulfil our duty towards Canada." Mr. Blake expressly reserv-