

representatives of the people; and if the public opinion of the Province, as he believed, was four to one in favour of a reduction in the present period of depression, it was their duty at once to make the reduction. (Hear, hear.) After the increase had been made in 1876, the press of the Province generally had expressed the strongest disapproval of it. He knew it would be proper to give hon. gentlemen opposite notice of a motion of this kind—(hear, hear)—and in 1877 the leader of the Opposition had given notice that a motion would be made then to reduce the indemnity from \$300 to the old figure of \$600. The Treasurer himself, however, had introduced a motion to that effect, and if a compact did exist among the members, from that time it was at an end—(hear, hear)—and thenceforward it was an open question. That resolution of the Treasurer had been used as political capital, to make the people believe that the Tories had voted against a reduction of the indemnity, and the only effort made to reduce it came from the Grits. (Opposition cheers.) He read two or three newspaper extracts throwing the entire blame of the "salary grab" on the Opposition members, the statements of which he declared to be untrue. The Commissioner of Public Works accused the Opposition of raising the black flag, but the black flag, if raised, had been raised by hon. gentlemen opposite and their organs, as both had represented that the Opposition had been the main cause of the increase and had been the obstacle to its reduction. He did not believe this matter should be used for political purposes at all—(hear, hear)—and he did not want hon. gentlemen opposite to gain the advantage over their opponents which they had been attempting to gain. The Provincial Secretary had sat at a meeting in East York when a speaker had put the blame to the door of the Opposition, and had not corrected him. Under these circumstances he was as blameworthy as the speaker himself. He proceeded to complain that the members of the Government had gone to distant constituencies, to the neglect of their official duties, in order to aid their friends in the Dominion Government. They had not gone as individuals, but as members of the Government, and they fought to bring the influence of the Ontario Government to the aid of their friends. (Hear, hear.) The conditions upon which they had received their increased emoluments they had abandoned, and therefore there was no reason why they should continue to exist. He did not think, moreover, that it was intended that the Ministers who had received these increased emoluments should prefer their private business to the public business. He had noticed that the Commissioner of Public Works himself had been absent two or three months in England in the interests of a wealthy railway corporation. (Hear, hear.) He did not desire to detain the House any longer, and he thanked them for their patient hearing. (Cheers.)

Mr. HARDY said that his honourable friend who had just sat down must have convinced his hon. friends opposite that they had made a mistake in the selection of their leader. In an able speech of about three hours' duration he had formulated his indictment against the Government, when the hon. member for London had been able to make his arraignment in about fifteen minutes. But there was very little new matter in the speech of his hon. friend, except perhaps in the latter part of it, in which he had made reference to the salary question. With regard to the speech which was made at Yorkville, and which he (Mr. Hardy) was accused of listening to without making any protest, he had had the opportunity of consulting the gentleman who had made the speech, and he had found that the language that had been used was that the increase in the salary was due equally to all members of the House. The position which the Conservative newspapers had taken on the matter was that the Government were entirely responsible for the increase, but the portion of the Reform press which had opposed the change had always taken the broad ground that it was a wrong change, and had laid the blame upon both sides of the House alike. There was no analogy between the motion which had been made by the Minister of Education to reduce the indemnity, and the amendment to the amendment now brought forward. The former was a fair and honourable motion, and made with fair and honourable motives, while the

latter was an attempt to force the supporters of the Government into a false position. Hon. gentlemen opposite had solemnly subscribed a document inviting the Government to do a public act, and they now deliberately repudiated it. (Cheers.)

Mr. SCOTT rose to a point of order. His hon. friend had attributed to him certain language as an invitation to the Administration to bring down a motion to increase the indemnity to members. That language was not used until after the estimates were brought down providing for the increase in the indemnity.

Mr. HARDY said his hon. friend was not taking a point of order.

Mr. SCOTT said that the Provincial Secretary had attributed to him, that by some document to which his signature was attached—

Mr. HARDY said that the signature of the hon. member for Peterboro' had been at least attached to it by a friend who was authorized to use his name.

Mr. MEREDITH challenged the hon. gentleman to produce the document.

Mr. HARDY said that the document could be produced. Did the hon. gentleman deny that he had written such a letter?

Mr. MEREDITH would not deny that he had written the letter. (Cheers.)

Mr. HARDY said that the first act of the new leader of the Opposition was as comprehensive as any course he had ever been able to take upon any question. He asked if there was any parallel between the motion of the Treasurer in Committee, when neither side could make political capital out of it, and a motion of this kind, sprung upon the House at a time when the Government and their supporters must vote against it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. LAUDER—Why didn't you reduce last session?

Mr. HARDY—Why didn't you move last session? What was the reason of this dying repentance on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite as they were proceeding to the galleries? (Cheers and laughter.) They were giving the lie to all their actions for the last three years, and attacked—what but their own action?—for the purpose of receiving a certain amount of paltry political advantage from it. (Cheers.) They would have an opportunity of voting on this question when the proper time came. (Hear, hear.) This practice of making motions during the debate on the Address had been practically abolished in England and at Ottawa, but the Opposition here could not let the opportunity pass of making some cheap political capital. Both sides alike were responsible, and both sides alike should bear the responsibility. (Hear, hear.) There should be no shirking or creeping out from their responsibility at the last. Neither side should charge the other with the blame of the introduction of that particular measure, and no Liberal journal had sought to do so except in reply to the statements of their own organ. The fine sense of propriety of hon. gentlemen opposite made them think that he (Mr. Hardy), while sitting in a public meeting, should correct every misstatement that was made. What would they think of a gentleman who at a picnic at Owen Sound said, "With regard to the way that the Government raised their own salaries, why did not the Opposition stop it? His answer was that they were out-voted." That was a speech of Mr. A. W. Lauder, M.P.P., as reported in the *Mail*.

Mr. LAUDER—It is not true. I never made such a statement—(laughter)—outside of this House since the indemnity was raised.

Mr. HARDY was glad his hon. friend had for once repudiated the *Mail*, and he was bound to accept his denial.

Mr. LAUDER said a motion was made last session to reduce the salary of the Attorney-General.

Mr. HARDY said his hon. friend was now admitting the correctness of the report, but he went too far, for this speech was delivered in 1877, before the motion was made. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He would hold the hon. gentleman responsible for this report in the *Mail*, because he did not deny it. Now, what was this motion that was put before the House? By it hon. gentlemen sought to ride into power over the ruin of their own reputations—(cheers)—and at the expense of re-