

ted that Mr. Hodgins, the late member for West Elgin, no longer occupied a seat in the House; that gentleman had been noted for his geniality, his generosity, and fair-mindedness, and he was ever ready to do a favour for any gentleman on either side of the House, but he rejoiced that in Mr. Hodgins' successor they had a young man of great promise. He next referred to the death of Dr. Haney, who was an honest and good man, who had never shrank from a duty in the interests of the country or his constituents. In his place they had a gentleman who, he believed, would perform his duties as efficiently as Dr. Haney had done. Hon. gentlemen opposite professed to feel satisfied that the approaching elections would be crowned with the same success as the elections held on the 17th September. He believed the people would soon discover that the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite had misled them, and unless the local elections came on shortly hon. gentlemen opposite would find themselves nowhere. (Hear, hear.) If they had confidence that the policy of their friends would actually lead to the prosperity which they had prophesied, they would desire the elections to be delayed as long as possible, so that the Conservative party would get credit for that prosperity. (Hear, hear.) But their desire was for the elections to come on before the people could see or judge for themselves the legislation which would be enacted. He believed hon. gentlemen were frightened, and he was not surprised, because they were conscious of having misled the people in the late elections. But when another election came about he prophesied that the Reform Government, instead of being defeated, would come back stronger in the faith of the people. The old Tory spirit was creeping out among hon. gentlemen opposite, who wanted to take away the representation that the people enjoyed. The Conservative party had fought against all the great reforms that had been accomplished in this country, and when they could no longer resist they turned round and accepted what the Reform party established. The Conservative party of this country in the past had attempted to rule the country in the interest of the party. Mr. Sandfield Macdonald had fallen in an attempt to gain the sympathy of large corporations, so as to rule the country by rings and corporations instead of by the free voice of the people. The Reform party at that time appealed to the people on the grounds of maintaining popular rights, and the right of every man to exercise a free vote. The Reform party had settled the great municipal loan fund difficulty with satisfaction to everybody concerned, and to the Reform party was due the proud position this Province occupied to-day, and had the people remained under the control of the Tories, they would still have been hewers of wood and drawers of water. The history of the Reform party showed that they had preferred country before party, while to the Conservatives it was party first and party always, and country nowhere. (Cheers.) The amendment to the amendment was an extraordinary piece of machinery. He feared his hon. friend the leader of the Opposition would not be able to lead as honestly and fairly as the late leader, to judge by his attitude in the present discussion. In the House more than in any other place there should be perfect honour maintained among gentlemen, whether on one side or the other. The people would not maintain their confidence in the Opposition if their present course was persevered in. He felt for the majority of the Opposition, for against their own honourable wishes they were in a measure forced to acquiesce in this motion. The Province was an honest Province, and the citizens expected the members to do their duty, and no honest man begrudged the members the paltry sum they were paid. A reduction of the indemnity would introduce into this House the lobbying and corruption so prevalent on the other side of the line. If the members on the Government side of the House had attempted to take such a dishonourable advantage of their opponents, he would step across the floor of the House and take his seat with the members of the Opposition. He charged the hon. member for Stormont with inconsistency in his speeches upon the indemnity question. The member for Huron in his speech had come out fairly and honestly, and took his share of the responsibility of the increase of the indemnity. He believed he spoke

the views of hon. members on both sides of the House when he said that the indemnity was not too much. He believed that while the hon. members of the Opposition pretended to desire a reduction they were praying that the indemnity would remain at \$800. The *Maj* came out very bitterly in opposition to the indemnity of members of this Legislature, but said nothing about those of the Dominion Parliament, for the proprietor of that journal expected to receive his \$1,000 indemnity. The increase in the pay of members of Parliament had been made under a Conservative Government by consent of the Opposition, and the Reform journals and members had not attempted to bring it up against the Government, and the country were perfectly satisfied that the indemnity should remain as it was. He was sorry that the hon. member for Peterboro' (Mr. Scott), by assenting to the present motion, had placed in danger the high reputation which he had so deservedly gained in the country. Referring to Senator Macpherson, who had so strongly advocated a reduction in the indemnity of members, that gentleman might have very properly begun by trying to effect a reduction on the money received by members of the Senate. They had no election expenses to pay, and were perfectly independent of their constituents. The hon. member for Simcoe, who had been trapped into moving this resolution, being placed in a more favourable position than other members of the Opposition, would do well to withdraw from his position.

Mr. BROWN stated that he had voted for the reduction of the indemnity, and would do so again. They were sent there to represent the people, not themselves, and they should bow to the will of the people. It had been stated that the Opposition first proposed the increase in the indemnity, but he thought, though not much of a politician, that the Government were responsible for the legislation of the House. The members of the House had been elected on the understanding that their indemnity should be \$600, and if they had made a mistake in increasing the amount they should not be afraid to make the reduction asked for by the country. He thought the hon. member for North Ontario might leave the members of the Opposition to attend to their own affairs, for if they did that they would have all they could do.

Mr. WILSON expressed his intention of voting against both the amendment and the amendment to the amendment. While he thought he could congratulate the hon. member for London on being elevated to the leadership of the Opposition, he was afraid he could not congratulate the party on having chosen that hon. gentleman as their leader. If they could judge of what his conduct in the future would be by his very first act, they had not much reason to expect that he would occupy the position so ably and honourably as it had been occupied by the late hon. member for East Toronto. After the hon. members of this House entered into a solemn compact, it was to be regretted that any hon. gentleman should consent to violate such a binding and lasting engagement. He held that it was the duty of the hon. member for London, the instant that his own organ, the *London Herald*, had made use of this compact for political purposes, to have publicly repudiated it.

Mr. LAUDER—The hon. member for London says he has no organ.

Mr. WILSON said it was very easy to disclaim an organ when it had done one a little injury. (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt the hon. member for East Grey would repudiate any organ that made an injurious assertion against him. (Cheers.) The hon. member for London and the hon. member for East Middlesex (Mr. Tooley) he held to be chiefly responsible for this question being made a political machine, for those two gentlemen, at a political meeting shortly after the increase, had pledged themselves to move for a reduction, no matter what the views of the other members of the House might be. Even if this resolution were passed, it would not accomplish the reduction sought for. It would have the effect of removing the present Government from power, but he failed to know that hon. members opposite were pledged to reduce their own salaries if they obtained seats on the Treasury benches. If they really desired to make the reduction, there was a proper time to have it made, when such a motion