

sociation interview the member in their district and secure his opinion regarding the resolutions laid before Sir Wilfrid Laurier in May, 1896, regarding the plebiscite, in order that the association may know the views of members

before the session of the Federal Parliament opens."

The Opposition had gone to the country upon the conditions which had existed for many years, knowing that every constable in Ontario would have a vote, but having been defeated they are trying to find some loophole by which they can creep down—(applause)—and in blaming the Government for neglect in not amending the law the hon. leader of the Opposition was again repudiating former leaders of the party, inasmuch as it was the boast of the Opposition that Sir Wm. Meredith had exercised a material influence in the construction of legislation. (Applause.)

Mr. Lucas (Con.), Centre Grey, probably the most youthful-looking member of the House, continued the debate, dealing, firstly, with stage fright and the inconvenience of following an old campaigner though new member; secondly, with the absurdity of calling the House at public expense to bolster up the position of the Liberal party, and, thirdly, with the liquor influence, charging that the only hotelkeeper in Centre Grey who was bold enough to act on the Conservative committee had since lost his license. Continuing, the speaker dealt with the constable vote, good roads and the fishery legislation, taking the same position which has been established by previous Conservative speakers.

#### A Contrast.

Mr. Hislop, East Huron, reminded hon. gentlemen opposite that after the general election of 1894 the Conservative press, instigated and abetted no doubt by hon. gentlemen, had demanded that the House be called forthwith to transact public business. They were prompted no doubt in their demands by the hope that the Government would not be found to possess the confidence of a majority of the House. Why did not the hon. gentlemen approve of the action of the Government in doing in 1898 what they demanded in 1894? He accepted their opposition to this session being held as a proof of their conviction that the Government had received the approval of the people to whom they appealed. He challenged hon. gentlemen opposite to prove the numerous charges which they had made upon the floor of the House by facts. Hon. gentlemen opposite had shown their readiness to step across the floor of the House and assume the government of the country by the disfranchisement of their fellow-electors. Such ideals were not the ideals of men who would give the country good government. He contrasted the action of the Liberals in the Dominion House, who unanimously supported a measure proposed by their opponents protecting the rights of the constables in Dominion elections to vote, with that of the Opposition on the present occasion.