

that it should be as full and elaborate as if it had been the one speech of the year. Mr. Hardy then referred to the contentions of the Opposition at the August session in regard to vacant Ministerial seats, pointing out amid applause that the Government had fulfilled its promise that when the House met again the Opposition would have the pleasure of looking upon the faces of both the Minister of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Crown Lands. In addition to that they had added a member to the Government in the person of the hon. member for West Huron. He did not hesitate to say that the gentleman would be a distinct acquisition to any Cabinet which could be formed in the Province of Ontario. (Applause.) His ability as a lawyer, as a legislator, as one accustomed to debate and familiar with public questions, and his high character and general intellectual powers would add credit to any Administration. Even his hon. friend, Mr. Whitney, paid a reasonable tribute to the new Minister's character and talents, although he had to run counter to the press of his party in doing so. He was pleased to note that his hon. friend had not, like the Conservative press, taken the ground that the Government had done wrong in adding the hon. member for West Huron to the Government. The party press which previously complained that there were too few members in the Cabinet now complained that there were too many.

The Constable Vote.

Mr. Hardy would have been glad had his hon. friend discussed a little and expressed his pleasure at the decision in connection with the constable vote. He had apprehended that he would either have confuted the decision or expressed acquiescence in it and his pleasure at the result. The Government side of the House might at all events congratulate itself that the Court of Appeal was unanimous in upholding the views which were expressed by every speaker on the Government side of the House during the summer session. (Applause.) The Government had been right in its politics, in its policy, as well as in its law. Mr. Hardy pointed out that the decision was unanimous. The Conservative argument that the summer session had been unnecessary in view of the decision would do for the country, but it could not be truthfully made on the floor of the House. The summer session brought about decision, paved the way for it. It was from the summer session the court received the questions and undertook to answer them, and had it not been for the summer session and the action taken there he ventured to believe they would not have had any decision from the Court of Appeal at all for the various reasons given by the hon. learned Judges when the application was first made. The court would, instead, have had a variety of cases on the same point and would to-day have been struggling with several appeals, and instead of hon. members having passed through the bye-elections and meeting at the present session in almost solid phalanx, the court would to-day have been wrestling with a number of appeals. It was worth a summer session

twice over, and he congratulated himself on the achievements of the measures passed during that session. (Applause.)

The Prorogation.

Mr. Hardy then dealt at some length with the prorogation of the House after the summer session, referring particularly to the letter of "Lex." He referred in a characteristic vein to the vast fund of legal knowledge evidently enjoyed by that gentleman, and asked why he hadn't deluged the Government with it and illuminated their dark course before the House arose. He should have been very glad had he done so. He was glad to learn that the hon. member for South Toronto (Mr. Foy) wrote the letter signed "Lex."

Mr. Whitney here insisted that Mr. Foy had discovered the error, but had not written the letter. After some further jocular reference to the wonderful legal ability of Hardy acknowledged that his attention had first been drawn to the matter by the letter, but asserted that it would have been well if Mr. Foy had told the House about it before they adjourned. But no amount of assertions, no vows would make him believe that any member of the Opposition had made the discovery before the adjournment of the House and had failed to impart his knowledge to the Government. Therefore he thought his hon. friends were open to the accusation, which Mr. Whitney had tried to meet and failed, of having sat there through the whole of the debate when the bill was before the house, when the bill was in committee and when the bill was up for the third reading without having made that little discovery of a very plain and simple thing which was overlooked by the House and by himself and by those who drafted the bill. Mr. Hardy further intimated that because

of the letter of "Lex" a great many people had become erroneously impressed with the idea that no bye-elections could be held during a session of the House. Before leaving the matter Mr. Hardy averred that in proroguing the House they had only carried out the real desire and the acknowledged intention of the House, and he was glad his hon. friend did not challenge at all the constitutionality, the legality or the policy of prorogation. Mr. Hardy then referred to the complaint that the session had been called too early. How difficult it was to satisfy an Opposition. If they had met late he would have been censured for not having met early, but he was satisfied that he had met the House at the most convenient time for all concerned.

The hon. gentleman had scouted the mathematics of his hon. friend from West Lambton, and seriously assured the House that two and two did not make six. Perhaps not, but in this case it made five—(loud laughter)—which split the difference, and was a good deal better arithmetic, and might for aught he knew be a good deal better mathematics than the statements of his hon. friend opposite and the Opposition press throughout the country, that a minority of eight made a majority of the House. (Government cheers.)