

(Hear, hear.) In reference to the Speakership, I must mention that the Government Candidate for that office was supported by a very fair majority from Lower Canada. (Hear, hear.) My honorable friend from Verchères (Mr. Cartier), the defeated candidate for Speaker, has, at all events, the satisfaction of knowing that the Representatives of Lower Canada, where he is best known, gave him a good majority of votes (Ministerial Cheers). But the Administration was defeated on the Speakership by a majority of 12 from Upper Canada. Honorable members who understand the position of public men will believe that this was a cause of very great embarrassment to me in the position that I occupied. In endeavoring to sustain my honorable colleague (Mr. Morin), I expected to be able to bring to his support the confidence of a majority of the Representatives of that portion of the Province to which I more particularly belong, so as to enable us conjointly to carry on the Government. The vote on the Speakership plainly indicated that I should not be able to do that. Immediately after that vote I fully made up my mind that it was utterly impossible for me to continue to conduct the government of the country with any sort of satisfaction, even if we should happen to have a majority on the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne. I was perfectly certain that the majority, if any, could not be more than two or three, and that there would be a majority against us from Upper Canada. I felt that I should not be justified in remaining in an Administration with my Colleagues from Lower Canada when I could not command the confidence of the section of the Province to which I belong. I determined however to let the debate on the address come on in the House and be carried to a vote and then take my own course afterwards. But yesterday evening a question of privilege affecting the seat of an Hon. Member of this House came up unexpectedly by me. Some gentlemen may not regard it as a question of very material importance, but I and my honorable Colleagues take a different view of the subject. For myself I can only say that