

The Legislature was called together in December, and immediately adjourned until late in the following month. Under a constitutional form of government, the speech from the throne drafted by the Ministry, and delivered by the head of the executive at the opening of the session, is supposed and intended to foreshadow and announce the more important measures immediately about to be submitted to the representatives of the people. In this instance, the speech from the throne announced nothing, except a few unimportant measures concerning agriculture, reformatories, asylums, and the license act, most of which, it is well to note, were never introduced. Either the Ministry had then decided upon their new railway policy, and their scheme of additional taxation, or they had not. If they had, they were willfully and intentionally misleading both the Lieutenant-Governor and the people, and had made their first step towards the unconstitutional setting aside of the rights of the Crown, and the arbitrary overriding of the liberties of the people, which, before the end of the session, was to lead to their dismissal; or their policy, as the opponents of the Government have since frequently urged, was completely changed and remodelled during the adjournment, in consequence of the pressure brought to bear upon them from outside quarters—a fact they themselves have strenuously denied. The truth is probably to be found between the two. The Treasurer, in all probability, had determined upon the Stamp Act, the railway policy was forced upon them during the vacation. The House met and adjourned without doing anything, because the hearing of a speech from the throne, saying nothing, and the passing of a correspondingly meaningless reply, can hardly be considered business. On the 19th of January, the Legislature re-assembled, after an absence of almost a month. From that day until the 29th, when Mr. Angers brought down his railway resolutions, literally nothing was done; the House met for form's sake each day, sat an hour, and adjourned. The Opposition, through their leader, complained incessantly of the inaction of the Government, but their remonstrances were invariably met with coarse sneers and jibes, and often rude and uncourteous rejoinders from the ill-conditioned gentleman who occupied the place of leader. These eleven days were of much moment to the country; they were, beyond doubt, spent in manipulating the House, and securing the blind and subservient concurrence of the majority, which was so soon to make itself so unenviably notorious as the personification of "brute force." Before the