

proposed, that persons to be appointed by the executive of the day shall practically control the revision of the voters' lists, is a measure that should not be accepted by a free and independent Parliament.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. member, Mr. Speaker, was very much pleased with the paragraph in the Speech with reference to the question of Chinese immigration, and thought it evinced great care and great diligence on the part of the Administration in the prosecution of their duty. I am not surprised that the hon. member for Cumberland, who is new to this House, should have apprehended the state of the case somewhat differently from the way in which some of us are disposed to look at it; because I find in the Commission to which reference is made in the Speech that a most inaccurate recital has been made of the facts of the case. That Commission, speaking from memory, as it was published in the papers, was issued upon a report of the First Minister to the effect that a motion which had been made in this House on the subject of Chinese immigration had been withdrawn upon a pledge made by the Government that they would issue such a commission. Now, this is wholly incorrect, and I am astonished that the hon. gentleman should have so soon forgotten the events of the Session, or that he should have trusted to his memory, and not have referred to the record. It is quite true the hon. gentleman used his most persuasive tones to induce the withdrawal of the motion. It is quite true he asked my hon. friend, who is a supporter of his, and who was pressing on the motion very earnestly, to withdraw it, but he was not successful on that occasion. The hon. gentleman insisted, and the First Minister then proposed some slight modification of the terms of the motion, or of the amendment moved by the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Allen), and with that amendment the motion passed. So far then, from this Commission issuing upon a pledge of the Government, the fact is that we unanimously resolved "that in the opinion of this House it is expedient to enact a law restricting or regulating the incoming of Chinese into the Dominion of Canada." That was the state of the case at the close of the Session; that motion was carried with the assent of the Government; and now we are informed that a Commission has been issued, that the report is nearly ready, and that it will be presented to us during the Session, which I suppose is intended to convey to those interested in this subject that they shall see the report, but that the measure which the House agreed should be brought down, and which it was understood should be brought down this Session, will not make its appearance. I do not think, Sir, the report ought to be delayed. There is one member of the Government at any rate—the hon. Secretary of State, who also fills the position of Commissioner—who cannot admit the necessity of delay. Therefore, I hope, the report will come, not during the Session merely, but at once, so that we shall be in a position to grapple with the question in accordance with the resolution of the House to which I refer. The hon. member for Cumberland paid a very natural and graceful compliment to his predecessor—whom he will permit me to say we miss from his place this Session. His disappearance from that place is the practical result of the view taken by this side of the House last Session. We insisted that the holding of the two positions which that gentleman then held was inconsistent, inconvenient and improper. My hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) moved a resolution indicating that it should not be continued; the hon. gentleman resisted it, and his usual majority sustained him; but immediately, at the close of the Session, the position we took prevailed, and the holding of the double office ceased. The office of Minister of

Mr. BLAKE.

Railways has not since been filled for now a long time—for more than two years, if we except the actual period of the Session, during a considerable portion of which it was the opinion of a large number of the members of this House that the office was not filled either—at any rate by a member of Parliament—there has been no Minister of Railways practically. It is of some consequence to us, particularly when important transactions are taking place with reference to the Pacific Railway route and other matters, that there should be a Minister of Railways. It is of some importance to us to know who should be the successor of the late Minister of Railways. It is of little consequence when a Robitaille succeeds a Robitaille, but it is of some consequence who should be the successor of the late member for Cumberland. Now, we are promised some measures, mostly of an amendatory character—measures to amend the insurance law, the Civil Service Act, a contagious diseases measure, a North-West census measure, and a measure in relation to the North-West Mounted Police. These are indicated to us as some of the principal subjects of legislation of the Session. But we find on both sides of the House—the hon. member for Cornwall and Stormont has shown that he found it too—that certain measures which were promised once or twice before are not mentioned. There is no factory Bill promised, though, like the franchise Bill, it adorned former Speeches from the Throne. The franchise Bill survives, but we cannot say, in this instance, that it is the survival of the fittest. The factory Bill seems to have disappeared, obviously, as the hon. member for Cornwall and Stormont thinks, for good. It is not among the *alia*, the other things which it was not thought worth while to mention in the Speech from the Throne, but which are to be brought forward as special plums in the pudding. Nor do we find anything more promised to the North-West than the census. I had hoped some measure would have been promised for the representation of the North-West Territories. That question was discussed in both branches of the Legislature last Session. My hon. friend from Huron (Mr. Cameron) brought in a Bill to provide for representation in the Territories, but the hon. gentleman does not see fit to offer them representation, and tells them instead he will count their numbers. Nor is anything said with reference to the grand schemes of which the hon. Minister lately declared himself a supporter. We had some reason to expect that when a gentleman in his position had announced, in his view, the importance of these schemes, they would, at any rate, have been brought forward in that Speech. But upon them nothing is said. I shall not, under these circumstances, discuss them, but I cannot pass by the occasion on which the hon. gentleman made statements on these subjects without protest, for my part, with reference to certain names he used. When in England, as the First Minister of Canada, the hon. gentleman ought to have been particularly careful, if he chose to make allusions, to make them with regard to accuracy and fact, and not to have used his position unfairly, as I conceive he did, to discredit those who are opposed to him in this country. As reported in the English papers, he said in one of his speeches:

"The Canadian Liberal-Conservatives are those who draw their inspirations from England, who believe in the English constitution, and would loyally follow English precedents. Opposed to them we have the Liberal party, but they are not the true Liberals. The majority are, I believe, as loyal as any Conservatives. They have an earnest desire to continue the union which happily exists between Canada and the Mother Country, but they do not draw their inspirations from England. We have contiguity to a great nation, to a people who speak the same language, deal with us and trade with us, and it is therefore very natural that their institutions should offer some attraction to a considerable body of our people."

I maintain that was an inaccurate statement of the opinions of the Liberal party. I maintain that the Liberal party has a well settled and reasonable preference for that system, as more flexible, as giving earlier and apter opportunities for