

at the same time, the most contented people in the world.

Hon. gentlemen, I thank you for the kind manner in which you have received the few crude remarks which I have had to make—necessarily crude from the impossibility of devoting to the subject that time and attention which the dignity of this House demands—and therefore is it with feelings of humility, and a conviction of the imperfect manner in which I have endeavored to express those sentiments, that I crave your indulgence on this occasion.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—Knowing, as the members of this hon. House do, the long period of broken health which I have passed through, and that I was simply unable to take any part in the proceedings of the House last session, I am sure that hon. gentlemen will grant me their usual kind indulgence in offering some observations with regard to the Address now before us.

I will preface the remarks I am about to make by defining my own position. It would be unmeaning on the part of the leaders of the government to repeat a former charge that I had gone over to the Liberal party, from the views which I now entertain. I simply speak as a member of this high judicial body, because I have never regarded this House as a body that should be rendered partizan, and I have always felt that the two leaders of this House, in the manner in which they have controlled it, have inflicted a deep injury upon this Chamber, and upon the country. I rise as a member of this high judicial body to express the opinion which I conscientiously hold, thinking and acting for the people of this country, and not for a party. That is the view which I entertain of the vocation and duty of this House, and, I may add, that at my advanced age there is no office at the disposal of this or any other Administration which I desire to accept or could accept; so let there be no misunderstanding on that point, and let there be no insinuations thrown out by the Minister of Justice, as on former occasions, that I am looking for office—that I am wanting the Governorship of Ontario, or any other position

When I speak, I do so according to the best of my humble judgment in the

interests of the country, and if I have ever said anything on the floor of this House which the Senate has deemed to be an error of judgment, I make the most ample apology for any such sentiment that I may have uttered. Hon. gentlemen know the high opinion which I have always entertained of the individual members of this House. They know that I have always expressed my opinion that a more estimable body does not exist in the Dominion than the members of this Senate. But the Senate has, in some manner, been controlled by the leaders of this House; their opinions are supposed by influences used, to be silenced, and, as a natural result, the Senate, as a body, no longer commands the respect or confidence of the country, and the charge lies at the door of the Ministers of the Crown for the manner in which they have conducted themselves since they have come into power.

I do not propose to weary the House by referring to any of the subject matters of this Address. When a vessel is believed to be drifting amongst the breakers from the guidance of the helmsman (that is the Government, who appear to be suffering from a fatal disease called Phrenzy) the absorbing thought of those on board is how the ship can be saved! It is a very painful duty for me to say, that, as an old and life-long Conservative (and I hope to die a Conservative) I am from a sense of duty led to warn you that there are acts of the present Conservative Government that must affect disastrously the country for a time, and must certainly wreck the Conservative party in less than two years, and, I am sorry to be compelled to add, that there are acts of the present Government which show lamentable depravity of character and total abandonment of principle. Some of their acts show that as regarding the Government all prudence, and care, and principle, and justice, and public gratitude, are gone. Vested rights are no longer respected but are ruthlessly trampled under foot. This Government has become a danger to the State, and I will illustrate in what manner.

In my opinion the time has arrived when mass meetings should be held from one end of the Dominion to the other to stop in their course those who, to retain power, have demoralized the public men and the