

Mr. MITCHELL said he widely differed in opinion from some of the hon. members on the Opposition side of the House, with whom he sometimes acted in sympathy, while, as a general thing, he acted independently, and was not advised by them as to the course they were likely to pursue. He could understand the reason why the right hon. member for Kingston and the hon. member for Cumberland adopted that conservative policy, to protect the Government from any possible loss that might occur from claims on the Intercolonial Railway. As those hon. gentlemen expected to occupy the Treasury benches shortly—as they doubtless would do—he could understand why they should oppose the reference of these cases to Courts of law; they had to act, not with a view to the present, but to the future. An official would only require a nod of a Minister of Public Works—which position the member for Cumberland expected to occupy—to travel along the Intercolonial Railway, and, if twenty cattle had been killed, to find some reason why the question should ultimately be decided by the Government. The Bill would provide no remedy whatever for the evils of which his constituents complained—the misconduct of the Government in refusing to pay claims for damages. The hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries thought that, because there had been three or four cases in Westmoreland to one in Northumberland, there could be no doubt as to the excellence of the Bill, because he (Mr. Smith) was satisfied, although a member of the Administration should have position and power sufficient to obtain justice for his constituents. Although the hon. Minister might be satisfied, having failed to obtain justice, he (Mr. Mitchell) would continue to press the case until justice was done. If the hon. Minister chose to rest satisfied while injustice was shown the people of Westmoreland, he hoped his constituents would learn what the hon. gentleman had said, and, if he did not represent them better, allow him to retire. The Bill was utterly insufficient to carry out the object in view, and the people had the right to demand that in those

cases of damages they should be permitted to submit their claims before an ordinary Court of law. He would, therefore, feel it to be his duty to oppose the Bill at every stage.

Mr. SMITH (Westmoreland) said the reference he made to cases of claims for cattle killed in his county being unsatisfied by the Government was for the purpose of answering the charge which the hon. member for Northumberland had made without any foundation whatever—that, because he was an opponent and not a supporter of the Government, his constituents did not receive equal favour. He (Mr. Smith) wished it to be distinctly understood that he was not prepared to prostitute his position to satisfy a claimant in his county because he (Mr. Smith) happened to be its representative. He had never used his influence as a member of the Government with Mr. Brydges, the Superintendent, or any other employé of the Government for the purpose of inducing him to adopt a different policy in respect to his (Mr. Smith's) constituents than towards those of the hon. member for Northumberland. That hon. member talked with great assurance and seemed to think he had charge of the whole country. He had not, however, charge of him (Mr. Smith) or his constituents, who knew him and returned him as their representative. The hon. member for Northumberland had indicated that he (Mr. Smith) would not be again returned.

Mr. MITCHELL: I never said anything of the kind, and never hinted at it, but it ought to be so.

Mr. SMITH said he was glad he was not under the control of the hon. gentleman. He was prepared to compare his administration of the Department over which he presided, with that of his predecessor, and, when he wished to institute a comparison, he was prepared to meet the hon. member. If he failed to discharge his duty, no doubt his constituents would condemn him and leave him at home. They knew him well; he had been their representative during 26 years uninterruptedly; and, if the time should come when they thought he had betrayed their confidence and declined to