

in overthrowing the Commercial Bank, maintained that Mr. Galt and his colleagues were responsible for the state of affairs which resulted in its failure.

Hon. Mr. Holton said he was in position to corroborate every word uttered by his honourable friends, the Minister of Finance and the member for Lennox and Addington, who happened to be President of the Commercial Bank, of which he (Mr. Holton) was a director; and he could further say, that the vote of thanks passed by the Board to the Minister of Finance was not a mere formal acknowledgement of services, but a sincere recognition of valuable assistance he had rendered.

Mr. Morris said it would be unbecoming in him if he were not to express his belief that everything which had been stated by his honourable friends, the members for Chateaugay and Lennox and Addington, was perfectly true. No institution in circumstances of such extreme trial could have received more aid, countenance and assistance than this one did from his honourable friend the Minister of Finance. He had full opportunity of judging, and he could say that he believed the fall of the Commercial Bank was not in any wise to be attributed to the legislation of last session.

Hon. Mr. Dorion inquired whether any steps had been taken to fill the vacancies in the Cabinet.

Sir John A. Macdonald said the Government were taking the steps necessary to supply the vacancies. In the meantime, the public service would not be permitted to suffer, and no undue delay would take place in making the appointments.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

The **SPEAKER** then put the Address, paragraph by paragraph. On the first paragraph being put, **Hon. Mr. Howe** rose to speak; but on the suggestion of **Mr. Holton**, the House took a recess till half-past seven. After the recess.

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at half-past seven o'clock.

Hon. J. Howe having had the floor before dinner, resumed the debate on the Address. Before proceeding to discuss the subject before the chair, **Mr. Howe** alluded to his own position in connection with the leadership of the Opposition, saying that it would have been an act of great impertinence on his

[**Mr. Mackenzie** (Lambton)]

part to have assumed the leadership of any body of men holding views with respect to Confederation at variance with his own. It would also have been inconsistent with his duty to his own country. No man in his country went to the hustings pledged to any side of any question in the politics of Canada. No man there concerned himself about the policy of the existing Canadian Government. He felt incapable of assuming leadership in a House where two languages were used, with one of which he was not very familiar. He therefore felt with his peculiar views on Confederation that it was far better for him to take a position in the body of the House. No one from Nova Scotia had any side in the party politics of Canada. They had been legislated into the House against their wills. With these remarks as to his own position he would proceed to the subject before the House, the consideration of His Excellency's Speech. As a public man of some experience he thought discussion on the speech a mere waste of time, but with respect to the speech now before the House, matter had been introduced which challenged the correctness of the view of the people of Nova Scotia, and, therefore, called upon them for discussion. In addition to His Excellency's Speech they had had a speech from his honourable friend (**Mr. Fisher**) who had raised other points, which he (**Mr. H.**) regretted, as he had long approved of the public course of his honourable friend, the representative of York. His honourable friend had said that party feeling should be laid aside, and it might be laid aside by his honourable friend, but with respect to this House he feared his dream would not be realized. There would be two altars in this House, the worshippers of which would be as far from agreeing as were those at the first two altars erected on this earth—the altars of Cain and Abel. (Laughter). Assuredly Cain would soon be into Abel's hair, (laughter) and the dream of his honourable friend would be dispelled. His friend hoped there would be no extravagance—he trusted not. He hoped there would not be an army of loafers fastened on the country. He, too, hoped not, but he thought he paid but a poor compliment to the House of the Government with respect to coalition. He also referred to the Intercolonial Railway, but where was the route? That was a New Brunswick question, and when one route had been chosen, as it would have to be, what then would become of the Coalition? He had placed in his hands a speech made by the Minister of Public Works, in which it had been said that the Government of **Sir John A.**