

is not the same audit there that there used to be, and if there is not, then I say there should be. I may say further, Sir, that in performing my duty here, I have never been afraid of what construction any person inside or outside of this House would put upon my conduct. My record in this House, battling for the interests of the North-west Territories is not the record of a man who has shown any petty political spirit, because when my own friends were in power I have asserted my opinions against my party proclivities. I hope that if the present Government does not do justice to the Territories, the members from the Territories supporting that Government shall follow my example in that. I do not know that we shall hear any protest from the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) against the indifference of the Government he supports, to the North-west Territories. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) professes to be an independent, but as an hon. gentleman on his own side of the House told me, he professes to be an independent, but he is the worst Grit among them.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name.

Mr. DAVIN. No, I will not give the name. That name is perfectly sacred with me. Now, Mr. Speaker. I am quite surprised that my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Davies), who is the only member of the Government present, has not said anything in regard to this motion.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I had no opportunity. I intended to have spoken.

Mr. DAVIN. The Speaker rose after the hon. gentleman sat down.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. My hon. friend was too quick for me.

Mr. DAVIN. I beg pardon—I did not see my hon. friend (Mr. Dobell). I apologize to him. Nobody recognizes more thoroughly than I do the important part my hon. friend plays as a member of that Government; and, as he now comes back after doing great things in London, it would have been impossible for me to ignore his presence if I had known it. But I am surprised that no Minister rises to speak on this motion. We have to-day what we have lately been accustomed to have in this House, day after day—empty Ministerial seats. We are told that the Ministers are caucusing, patching up Cabinet differences and Cabinet squabbles; and while they are doing that here, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) has gone to patch up Liberal squabbles in Winnipeg. That is why we have empty Ministerial seats in this House. We have only one Minister with a portfolio present, and he was going to allow the motion to be put without saying anything upon it. I

Mr. DAVIN.

shall be very glad to let him say anything now.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I was not going to let the motion pass without making a remark or two; but the hon. gentleman was rather quick in getting on his feet, and I had not an opportunity. The hon. gentleman has asserted his independence in this House. I recognize his claim to independence, but there is this peculiarity about it, that while he asserts his independence, he does not support his assertion by his vote.

Mr. DAVIN. I rise to a point of order. That is a statement of fact about myself, and I say it is not true to fact. I say on the contrary that I have again and again supported my speech by my vote, and I dare the hon. gentleman to prove what he has stated. It is not true.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think I have sat in this House as long as the hon. gentleman—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) has made a statement, and unless the hon. gentleman is prepared to controvert it, he should accept it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not prepared to controvert it if he says that on any occasion he voted against the Government of which he was a supporter. I shall be particularly pleased if he will point out the occasion, and show us the "Hansard" in which the vote is recorded.

Mr. DAVIN. I will satisfy the hon. gentleman.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Passing, then, from this matter, which does not affect the question before the House, to the substantive motion which the hon. gentleman has made, I quite appreciate the importance of the subject-matter of that motion. It is a motion for papers relative to the claim of the North-west Government for increased executive powers and increased statutory allowances. The question was brought before this House at the first short session of this Parliament, when my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver) made a lengthy statement containing a very large amount of information on the question, and he was supported by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Davin). The Government have not only had the advantage of these statements, but they have had the benefit of receiving from the North-west executive a memorial setting forth in detail what the claims of that Government are. The hon. gentleman in his speech followed very closely the terms of that memorial—in fact, reading it to the House. That memorial has been presented to the Government by Mr. Haul-