

Scotia, they had to meet as best they could; and they stated further that they could only act with those gentlemen if they found them disposed, as he believed that they to discharge their duty in working out the constitution fairly on the floor of this House. Further, they were met by the argument that the administration should not be condemned beforehand—that they ought to be judged by their actions. He and his friends had met this by saying they had known a good many of them for a long time, that they had known a good deal of their actions, and had for many years groaned under the fruits of those actions. They were met by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McDougall) and they had ventured to suggest to that gentleman that he himself had educated the country to such a point with reference to the misdeeds of those gentlemen opposite, that he would find it very difficult to unteach those lessons in the course of one election. They pointed out that by his whole course of action for a long series of years he had condemned in a vigorous manner the conduct of the men for whom he now asked a fair trial; the honourable gentleman's answer was that in those days party spirit ran high, that he was anxious to show that the Opposition party were wrong, but that he had since found out that the devil after all was not so black as he was painted, and that in fact, if diabolical at all, he was only a diabolical good fellow. (Laughter). He for one was not convinced by the Minister of Public Works; he could not see what guarantee there was for his judgment being more sound now than it was before. On the contrary, it was just possible that his eyes were somewhat blinded by the circumstances in which he now found himself, and that his former judgment was the one to be relied upon. Then, in the western part of the Dominion, the Minister of Justice, Sir John A. Macdonald, was perambulating the land, and in those perambulations he was not alone. He was accompanied by a shadow, tall and thin—as a shadow ought to be—which followed his every footstep, re-echoed his every word, applauded his every sentiment. The two men who for twenty years had sat on opposite sides of the House—whose opposition had not ceased even during the temporary truce while Confederation was in progress—were now allied. The long feud of the clan McDonald had come to an end. The premier of Ontario had submitted to his chief the premier of Canada, and an alliance offensive and defensive had been formed between the major and minor potentates to sweep the elections in Ontario

for the benefit of the big and the little coalitions. One of the first fruits of that alliance was the conversion of the Honourable member for South Brant. Having commented on the suddenness of that conversion and on other curious combinations that occurred during the election, such as the visit of Mr. McDougall and Mr. M. C. Cameron to Durham, to oppose himself (Mr. Blake), he went on to say that the tactics to which he had referred, the mode in which the elections were conducted, the order in which they were arranged, and the pressure and influence brought to bear on them, had resulted no doubt in triumph—not of the Minister of Public Works and his friends, but—of the Minister of Justice, because the men who sat in the House as supporters of the Government from the Province of Ontario, sat here as supporters of the Minister of Justice, and not by any means as supporters of the Minister of Public Works, who he did not believe, had one follower in this whole House. Gentlemen opposite had achieved a triumph, but not without inflicting a most serious blow on the political morality of the country. As the result of the strange proceedings witnessed during the late elections, we saw a good deal of confusion now in this House. It had been customary to see the chief benches on his side of the House reserved for the Opposition; but, on this occasion, we found the members for Cornwall and South Brant sitting among those to whom they had been opposed at the election. It was difficult under these circumstances to know who was Ministerial and who Opposition. He hoped to learn from the lips of these gentlemen themselves what was their position—that he and his honourable friends near him might know whether they were surrounded by friends or foes. (Hear, hear). The Government met the House in different circumstances from those under which the elections took place. Two members of it had resigned their offices. The gentleman who had resigned the office of Minister of Finance and held that position almost continually for many years. The honourable gentleman during that period had led the country along a course which was sometimes Protection and sometimes Free Trade, and in which there appeared to be but one element of consistency, namely, that it involved an increase of our expenditure and of our debt, until at last, like some will-of-the-wisp which had led us into a quagmire, the honourable gentleman left us in the very worst spot of it to flounder out of it as best we could. As regarded the immediate cause of