

so little of him and the government that they had determined to consign him to hopeless oblivion. And had it not been, Mr. Speaker, for the fact that Mr. Hays personally went down into that riding and used all his influence in behalf of the Liberal candidate, I have no doubt that my hon. friend who was elected (Mr. Daniel) would have doubled and even trebled his majority. But what shall I say of the ministers from the province of Ontario? There is the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright) who pronounced in the city of Toronto a short time ago his valedictory, when he said that the time had arrived when he would have to hand over the fiery cross to other and stronger hands in that province. And in confirmation of his words we have the fact to-day that fiery cross has been entrusted to the hon. member for London (Mr. Hyman). But it is rather hard on the hon. member for London that at the outset of his career as a minister he should have been so badly treated. He lives immediately adjoining the riding of Lambton, and chose that riding as his fighting ground. Supported by a score of members from the province of Ontario he invaded that riding. In his campaign he was supported also by that which has always been a great power in the constituency of London—the machine. The whole concern was moved into East Lambton, and the result was one of the most hopeless demolitions of the Liberal party in East Lambton which we have witnessed for many years. But the Minister of Public Works (Hon. Mr. Sutherland), wise in his day and generation, after seeing a large Liberal majority in Woodstock converted into a hopeless minority in a local election came down to Ottawa and waited for the shock, and certainly the shock came with great violence. The Postmaster General, of course, was out of the country. He was taking the Texas air. But on second thought I find I am mistaken. It was the Texas air which the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Sifton) was absorbing, and the Minister of Public Works was refreshing himself with Mexican air. He knew well what was coming and fled to Mexico. The trouble with these hon. gentlemen in Ontario is this, that a discussion of public matters kills their chances. There was a gentleman named Dr. Hart, the candidate for the provincial government in Muskoka, who thus accounted for his defeat. He said: 'It was not that the electors had any fault to find with me, it was not that they did not respect me personally, but I had to suffer for the sins of the government. In like manner Mr. Robb, who was the candidate of the Liberal government in the riding of East Bruce, and who was a newspaper man by the way—thus explained his defeat. He said: 'One reason I was defeated was because the Tory party held a large number of public meetings at the close of the campaign.' That

Mr. BENNETT.

is the trouble with these hon. gentlemen. Wherever public issues are discussed before the people, they must fall to the ground. It is quite possible that the speech of the Hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce in Toronto was the one thing which gave a pointer to the people of Ontario and a warning to fight shy of this government. What were his concluding words? In his last adjuration to the Liberals in the city of Toronto, he gave this warning:—

But Ontario may undoubtedly very greatly diminish the weight which the province ought to have in the councils of the Dominion. It is possible you might see some things done which would not have been done if Ontario had chosen to do its duty. Now I speak thus because I know the danger which arises from certain prejudices to which I will not allude now. I know what you were treated for before in the case of Mr. Tarte and others. I hope for better things now.

What, in effect, did the hon. gentleman tell the people of Ontario? He told them that this government is not a government of the Dominion but a government of the province of Quebec, that the province of Quebec has the whip hand, and he warns the people of Ontario that they must endeavour to curtail the power of the province of Quebec in the present government by electing Ontario Liberals who may to some extent counterbalance Quebec influence. Is not that a nice position for a Minister of the Crown to take? No doubt the Minister of Trade and Commerce is not in a happy frame of mind. He has got his notice to quit definitely. He got that notice when the hon. member for London (Mr. Hyman) was promoted to a cabinet position. The time has arrived when the Minister of Trade and Commerce must sacrifice himself and leave the cabinet, but he is not leaving it without having provided for all his relations. His last son has just been placed on the Railway Commission as its chief clerk, and here we find this minister warning the people of Ontario to beware of the encroachments and inroads being made on the public exchequer by the people of Quebec and their representatives. But while the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is very brave when he is away from his colleagues, he is very timid when they are present. When free from their presence he pointed out the wrong-doings of Mr. Tarte and others of his colleagues in the province of Quebec. But while they were doing wrong what was the Minister of Trade and Commerce doing? He was saddling all his relations on the country and drawing his salary and thankful to be allowed to do it. Is it then to be wondered at that the people of the province of Ontario, when thus warned by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, should take him at his word, as they did in the ridings of East Bruce and Lambton?