

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Members of the present ministry denounced not only the appointment of any member of the cabinet, but of any member of parliament to a position of emolument while he occupied either one position or the other, because they accused any one who had been promised a position of any kind to which there was a salary attached, as being venal in character and that he could not by any possibility be an independent member. How that has been carried out it is not necessary for me to detail. I could give this honourable House the names of about twenty hon. gentlemen who have been appointed from the ranks of the hon. gentlemen opposite, who were representatives of the people, to positions of emolument. The Hon. Mr. Mills is the second judge that has been appointed, and no man condemned the principle of these appointments more vigorously than the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lister) who was himself appointed to the bench, and who, I regret exceedingly to say, has been lately called to his long home. Are we to lose another member of the cabinet shortly? I do not know that I could, with any degree of delicacy, ask the hon. gentleman the question, neither would I expect him to answer it, but I find in the Ottawa 'Free Press,' the government organ, the following paragraph:

Of the brilliant company of men who sat with Mr. Mills in the first parliament of Canada, Sir Richard Cartwright is the only Liberal left in the House to-day.

He ought to have said: "The former blue-blooded Tory who turned Grit"—I will not say for consideration—but under certain considerations, as my hon. friend the Secretary of State did. I have a distinct recollection of a time when my hon. friend used to pose as one of the horrid Tories, but circumstances transpired which led him, like Sir Richard Cartwright, to change positions; whether they changed their views or not, I am not prepared to say. In fact, I question very much, from the speeches he has made, and the Conservative utterances that have fallen from my hon. friend opposite me, whether he has changed his views, though he may have changed his position. I could quote from Hudibras something which would perhaps suit the case, but I forbear. The paragraph proceeds:

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

And he too will, ere many months are over, be moving to an atmosphere of greater repose than it is possible to enjoy as a Cabinet Minister at Ottawa.

Could the hon. Secretary of State take the Senate into his confidence?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I could if I knew.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—And tell us where this balmy atmosphere is to be found? Is it in the Governor's chair of Ontario, which very soon becomes vacant from lapse of time? Is it to cross the ocean to take Lord Strathcona's place? I am at a loss to know where, from the wording of this paragraph, the 'atmosphere of greater repose' is to be found than that which he now basks in, as Minister of Trade and Commerce, a position he used in strong and vigorous language to condemn as useless. In no place to which he may be relegated can he do less than he has done, or is doing in the department over which he now presides. He has been proved to be a very fine figure-head, but he has an admirable assistant who has done whatever may have been done in that department, and when he goes to that upper region, that balmy atmosphere, we will welcome him, certainly more particularly if it is the governorship of Ontario, or perhaps my hon. friend the Secretary of State might aspire to that position because his name has been mentioned in connection with it, but as long as he has the honourable position he holds now as Leader of the government in the Senate, as I presume he is to be, that is a much better position and more dignified and acceptable than the governorship.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I am glad my hon. friend agrees with me, that is in my opinion. I find no reference in this address to that very important question of the fast line. If there has been any progress made, surely it was of sufficient importance to mention it in the Speech from the Throne. I believe I am not allowed, under parliamentary rules, to speak of what took place the other day in the Commons, but if hon. gentlemen read the documents they will find that the premier called the attention of the leader of the opposition in that House to what he termed a lapse of memory—that if they had been seven years negotiat-