

**PARLIAMENT OF ONTARIO**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.  
MONDAY, DEC. 11.  
The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

**THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.**  
Mr. Deroche rose to move an address to His Excellency in reply to the speech from the Throne. He begged the indulgence of the House while he, perhaps the youngest member of the House, addressed them for a few moments. He had undertaken this task with some hesitation, but at the same time he did so because he believed the policy of the Government would be in the future as it had been in the past—one that would secure the confidence of the people.

Mr. H. S. Macdonald, of South Leeds, seconded the address.

Mr. Blake rose and said he congratulated

tated the gentlemen who had just spoken for the manner in which they had discharged a very awkward task; and if the matter had been as good as the manner there would be nothing to wish for. (Laughter.) But that could not be, for the gentlemen knew they were addressing themselves to a very bad business. The House had met again under very different circumstances, personally, and politically, from those under which it had met last session. During the last days of that session, a small but gallant band fighting for the interests of the country met the Conservative band.

(Applause.) Numerous divisions were taken on measures which the Government had procrastinated to a time when it was impossible that they should receive suitable discussion. Those divisions, as a rule, were very unsuccess-ful to the Opposition; but they were, as a rule extraordinarily successful in the hands of the Government. (Cheers.) He had amused himself in tracing out the votes of gentlemen who were known to be reliable in solid and unbroken ranks against every amendment, and though personally he regretted the absence of many estimable men from this House, yet he rejoiced, in his country's interests, to see that, as two to one, the Province had voted in favour of the Government. (Applause.) The head of the Government boasted that he had fifty-five in the ranks last session; but of this number, thirty who had supported him were not elected to the present Parliament. He (Mr. Blake) did not believe that the Opposition room, which at all exhibited a parallel case, was so strong as the Government on any side of the House. (Applause.) The leader of the Government, a day or two before the session closed, was good enough to ask some gentlemen on this side of the House, if it would not suit them to have the elections held in the month of June, or the month while he knew in his secret heart that he had a different intention. (Cheers.) In a month from the end of the last session, this worthy statesman—this worthy Premier of the Province of Ontario had in special writs for a general election. (Re-peated applause.)

Hon. J. S. Macdonald—Name the gentlemen.

Mr. Blake said that the gentlemen were here to-day. The Premier asked the elections to be held at a most inconvenient season of the year; no time was given for the Opposition to get ready to defend; in fact, the Premier, like some dishonest members of the legal profession, had attempted to snatch a verdict, but had miserably failed, and he knew to-day that he had not the control of this Chamber. (Cheers.) The honourable gentleman, Mr. Halliday at Ottawa, who had attempted to prevent the Government during the election which ought to be condemned and deplored. They knew instances of this kind with reference to the Government at Ottawa. If the honourable gentleman disclaimed any participation in these acts, if he says he thought it was the duty of the Government to brow beat them down, then let him join with the Opposition in a proposition of censure of them, which they proposed shortly to make. He (Mr. Blake) called upon his friend from Essex to make good his words, and tell the House how he intended to proceed, if elected by the voice of power. The same thing was done in his own county by a Government official. It was done in other counties, and now they were bound to protest in the strongest and the most solemn manner against any interference with the freedom of the people in electing their representatives. (Cheers.)

Other influences were used by the Government. They obtained a measure, the principles of which they on his side did not oppose, but rather approved of, for the purpose of getting the Government elected and they all knew how this measure was used. In the county of Grey there was a large quantity of poor lands with reference to which reports had been made and the supporter of the Government in that county, who was seeking re-election, was told the electors it would be extremely imprudent for them to elect an opponent of the Government. He says nothing of what the report is, or what the Government intends to do, but all he would tell them was that it would be very imprudent on their part to elect an opponent of the Government.

Another thing was said in public; but what was said in private was something a great deal stronger, and he would appeal to the Treasurer if such was not the case. It mattered little to the Government of the day that these unprincipled politicians should use the material property to which the resolution called upon them as a testimony. It mattered little to them that as a result in some of these townships they reap less than they sowed. It mattered little that they kept those people upon the same lands who had done nothing but had done their duty by freely electing Mr. Abraham Lauder. Hear, hear.

Another way in which the Government interfered in the elections was with regard to the railway fund, but he would not enter upon that subject at this stage of the debate. Mr. Blake said that the Government was the "Martyr." That they were to use the power entrusted to them to advance the very cause which they had betrayed. Under such circumstances, they strove from the right principle and not from the wrong.