

honorable friend stood alone in the unpleasant feeling to which he had just given expression. The matter was very plain. A Minister of the Crown scarcely warm in his seat in this House, had left it for the purpose of assisting in the election of a successor in another branch of Parliament. It was a case that warranted enquiry from the only Minister that was left to represent the Crown in this body. It was not a mere party question, but one which concerned the dignity and independence of Parliament, and on which there should be but one opinion. It was due to their self-respect to know whether it was a proper thing for a Minister of the Crown to leave his place during the sitting of Parliament and take part in the election of a member to serve in the other House. They might be told it was a matter that concerned only the independence of the other House; therefore, they owed it to themselves to be the first to take notice of it, and not leave the Ministry of the day in ignorance of the sentiments that the House entertained on the subject. The honorable gentleman had thought proper to leave the House even before the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was passed. It was beyond all precedent, and to the last moment he (Mr. Dickey) had been in hopes that the honorable gentleman would be in his place when the Address was passed, and be a medium for conveying the congratulations of this House to the representative of Her Majesty.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—This is a proper time to make the explanations to Parliament, in reference to the changes which have taken place in the *personnel* of the Administration since the last session. It seems a proper and fitting tribute to the Hon. Mr. Letellier's services to the country, that he should have been offered the position of Lieutenant Governor in his native Province. The vacancy created by his withdrawal from the Cabinet, was offered to Mr. Pelletier. For reasons which I do not think proper to discuss, Mr. Pelletier thought proper to decline the offer. The offer of a seat and portfolio was then made to Mr. Joly. That honorable gentleman from personal reasons—not on account of any difference in politics from this Government, but for reasons personal to himself—declined to become a member of the Administration. Negotiations were again opened with Mr. Pelletier, and he concluded to accept the seat in the Senate vacated by Hon. Mr. Letellier, and the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture. I confess, I do regret on the present occasion Mr. Pelletier's absence from the House. He

had, as honorable gentlemen are aware, accepted this position but a very few days before Parliament assembled, and it seemed only natural that he should make his adieux to his own constituents. I regret that he is now absent, but I hope that he will be in his place to-morrow or the day following. With regard to other changes, Mr. Geoffrion being in ill-health resigned his position, and Mr. Laflamme was called to take his place. Mr. Laird, having obtained a very thorough knowledge of the Northwest, was offered the Lieut.-Governorship of that new territory, and Mr. Mills entered the Government as his successor.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT said he thought it was pretty well known what was his opinion with regard to sustaining the dignity of the position of the Senate in this Dominion. He saw under the previous Administration that there was a gradual removal of members of the Government from this House to the popular branch of the Legislature. As one who assisted in the formation of the constitution of this country, he looked upon the Senate as the guardian of the rights of the smaller Provinces. He regretted that the representation of the Cabinet had been reduced to two members in this House, and one of those members of the Government was absent, as public rumor had it, in connection with an election, contrary to the dignity of this House. He thought there were honorable gentlemen on the floor of this Senate who were as competent to be members of the Administration as there were in the other branch of the Legislature, and he regretted to see, not only in this House but in the public press—and he had to charge his honorable friend, the leader of the Opposition in that respect also—that they were following a course by which the Senate were merely becoming the endorsers of the action of the other House. He admitted that the Commons should control the affairs of the country, but the Senate had a right to maintain their dignity and express their opinions on all subjects of Legislation. It was to be regretted that an honorable member of the Government and of this House should have descended to take part in an election for the other House. Since he had become a member of this House he had never voted at an election for a member of the House of Commons, and he had always considered it an improper thing for a member of the Senate to interfere in an election for the other House.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—Do I understand the honorable Secretary of State to say that the second time the portfolio was offered to Mr.