

Mr. ANGLIN said the right hon. gentleman had stated that, after the elections, he (Mr. Anglin) and the whole country knew how they had gone, and that, because he was aware of the result of the elections, he should be satisfied that he had no longer authority, and that it would have been but moderate and modest on his part to abstain from making appointments. What did that mean, but that the Speaker was only nominally Speaker of the whole House, and that, in reality, he was merely the creature and slave of a party? He (Mr. Anglin) would be sorry so to regard the present Speaker, and he never so regarded himself. Sad, indeed, would be the day when the Speaker of the House should become the mere slave and tool of any party. What! because the elections took a certain course, was the Speaker to be deprived of all his functions and attributes? The idea was perfectly monstrous. He was sorry to hear it cheered by a large number of members. He was satisfied that, when some who had cheered had had more experience, and had devoted their time to the study of Parliamentary history, and had learned the great importance of maintaining the rights and privileges of the House, they would hesitate to cheer such a statement. The hon. member for Northumberland spoke of the action of a former Speaker in a certain case, but his recollection seemed confused on the point. He (Mr. Anglin) did not recollect that any important office was vacant when he was elected Speaker. The office of the Accountant seemed the one referred to. Mr. Vaux applied for superannuation several weeks after his (Mr. Anglin's) election as Speaker, and the application was made through Mr. Speaker, the proper channel, as he believed, for any communication between the officers of the House and the members of the Executive, or the Treasury Board. On that application he was superannuated. That was an essentially different case, as no vacancy there existed, and none could have been created without the concurrent action of those members of the Government who formed the Treasury Board, as he believed; while, in the latter case, the vacancies existed, and he (Mr. Anglin) was informed by the Clerk that it was necessary that they should be filled.

Mr. ANGLIN.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he regretted that, in the discussion of a question involving the powers and authority of the presiding officer of this House, on both sides of the House there should have been displayed a feeling which was not quite compatible with the dignity and the position which this House ought to occupy before the people of this Dominion. The question as to whether there had been any undue exercise of authority by the late Speaker was one which, when the papers were brought before them, they would be better able to discuss; but he hoped that, in addition to the information which had been asked for in the motion, that the Government would send down, also, such information as they might have as to the exercise of authority or power by the Internal Commissioners, if any such had been appointed, because he took it that, if the Speaker, by virtue of this Act of Parliament, had only a limited power after the dissolution of Parliament, the authority of the Commissioners of the Crown, or the members of the Privy Council appointed before being sworn in as members of the House of Commons in dealing with the officers of this House, was equally open to exception and objection. He did not quite concur with the First Minister in his interpretation of this Act. It seemed to him that the intention was to continue in office, during the period from the dissolution of Parliament to the election of a new Speaker the person who had exercised authority as Speaker in the government of the House. He thought, moreover, the Speaker had power to remove or dismiss officers of the House at his own discretion. Then he thought it followed, as a necessary consequence, that he had the power to appoint—at all events, until a new Speaker was chosen—others to the place of those whom he had removed. He, (Mr. Macdougall) was disposed to construe the Act in that sense. But it had been stated—he did not know with what truth—that certain offices had been vacated and then filled at the suggestion, or by the authority, of the Executive. If this were true, he thought there had been an undue exercise of power. For, though he came into this House disposed to give support to the gentlemen on the Treasury Benches—believing, as he did,