

dress of the kind we are now considering, what an eloquent oratorical display we should have heard in condemnation. All his latent talent would have belched forth like the eruptions of a volcano.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I did not volcane.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—No, you are not in a position to volcane, as you say. You, in fact, represent an extinct volcano, with all its lava expended. You have now to do what others do under similar circumstances; draw your teeth a little when you find them becoming irritable. Apart from that, I am sure the gentlemen on both sides of the House, no matter what their political views may be, will agree with the sentiments he uttered in reference to the functions of the Senate; that the Senate is not to be factious in its opposition, or in its treatment of government measures. The hon. gentleman might have referred to two or three occasions in which the Senate asserted its independence, not against the government of the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie alone; but upon several occasions the House, with its great Conservative majority, rejected important bills that were sent up from the House of Commons, when Sir John Macdonald was leading the government of the country. You have the Short Line Railway Bill in which he took a very deep interest; you have also the consolidation, if my memory serves me, of the Statutes after Confederation. The Senate very properly said "you have sent us a mass of bills to simply accept without having any time at our disposal for their consideration," and consequently the Senate, lead then by a Conservative, I think the late Sir Alexander Campbell, rejected every one of those measures, and compelled the House of Commons at an early period of the session which immediately followed, to re-introduce the bills and send them to the Senate in sufficient time for proper consideration. There are other instances in which the Senate has asserted its independence, and I am quite sure that its composition to-day, though, as my hon. friend says, largely in opposition to the views of the present government, will not, upon any occasion, take a course which might be considered either factious or obstructive. Questions may come before us of a very objectionable character. If they are of such a character that we think they are not in the interests

of the country, this House will no doubt reject them in the interests of the country and in accordance with their own conscience. I do not know that I should say anything about the inconvenient season for the meeting of parliament. The reasons given by the hon. mover of the address in reference to the season at which parliament has been called are, I think, unanswerable. I do not know that, under the circumstances, they could have called Parliament together at an earlier period. I have had some little experience of a new government coming into power, and the difficulties that present themselves in preparing to lay before the country all the measures with which they may have to deal, but I must be excused if I take exception to his argument with reference to the issuing of the Governor General's warrants. The hon. gentleman says, and says very truly, that the late government had, upon very many occasions, asked for the Governor General's warrant to the extent of millions, but in making that declaration he gave not a single instance in which these Governor General's warrants were asked for and issued and the money obtained, that was illegal or contrary to the law. That is the whole point. It may be a question of policy as to the expenditure of money, but it is a question of law as to whether a Governor General's warrant should be issued under peculiar circumstances. My hon. friend says he is not much of a lawyer. I am not a lawyer at all. I must take my law, as I have done in the past, from a Minister of Justice. I would like to hear the opinion of the present Minister of Justice on this question of the issuing of Governor General's warrants, and if I can read common, plain English, I cannot come to any other conclusion than that the issue of a Governor General's warrant, even to pay the civil service or any other debt, is directly and diametrically opposed to the provisions of the law which he has quoted. I will read it, not for the information certainly of the Minister of Justice, but in order that I may show the basis upon which I come to that conclusion. In the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, subsection (b) of sec. 32, we have the following:

If, when parliament is not in session, any accident happens to any public work or building which requires an immediate outlay for the repair thereof, or any other occasion arises when any expenditure not foreseen or provided for by parliament