

gentleman who led the house in such a creditable manner for the two last sessions. I believe I am expressing the views of every hon. gentleman in this House that Sir Oliver Mowat during the time he was in this House as its leader acted in a manner that recommended itself to every hon. gentleman here, and that when he was removed from this House to occupy another sphere of usefulness, he carried with him the good wishes of every member of this body ; and I may say further that I am not at all sorry when this change was made, and we lost the services of so very able a leader as Sir Oliver Mowat that in making new arrangements the government saw fit to still continue the important portfolio of Justice in this branch of parliament ; and I am pleased to find that in filling that office they have selected a gentleman who occupies so good a position in this House and in the country as the hon. gentleman who now leads the government in this House. While I say so, I must express my regret that the government did not avail themselves of this opportunity of carrying out the pledge which they made of reducing the cabinet ministers, so that they would have had the credit of fulfilling one pledge which they made to the people of this country. But there is also a matter that we may note in connection with the vacancies that have occurred in this House in which the government have fallen short of their duty in another important respect. We have noticed that in addition to Sir Oliver Mowat being removed from us two other chairs in this House had become vacant by the promotion of their occupants to Lieutenant-Governorships. While I have not a word to say against the appointment of these gentlemen yet we must bear in mind that a very strong plank of the platform of the party that is now in power was that members of parliament should not have such positions dangled before them because it would tend to affect their independence ; and one of the members of this government went so far as to introduce a bill in the House of Commons which would remedy what he called a very great evil, and which provided that no member of parliament could accept any office of emolument under the Crown until twelve months had elapsed from the time that he vacated his seat in parliament before he accepted the office. The gentleman to whom I refer is no less a personage than the Postmaster General in the present administration. I find

these are the remarks that he made on introducing his bill :

If the government of the day can dangle public offices before their followers and induce a few, and perhaps an increasing number, to aspire to those positions they become mere parasites upon the administration. Not only do they do that sir, but moving among their colleagues they become as it were corrupting agencies amongst their own ranks, and so a small percentage of persons in that position are likely to impair the independence of the whole body. So it has become now in my opinion a very crying abuse, and parliament is cast down from its high position, and not only is the will of the people interfered with but all through the country the electorate noticing these things are coming to the conclusion that the highest aim a man can have in seeking public life is that he may through parliament find his way into a comfortable position for life.

I do not endorse these views of the Postmaster General by any means. I do not say that they are my views, but they are the views of a prominent member of the government and views that were coincided in by other members of the government as well, and therefore, I wish to draw attention to the fact that in this respect as well as many others the government have departed entirely from their policy, the policy they proclaimed before the electors. Hon. gentlemen in speaking in the interest of the government, especially my hon. friend the leader of the House, referred in glowing terms to the prosperity that exists in this country at the present moment. They did not go quite so far as to claim that that prosperity was altogether due to the actions of the present government since they came into power ; it is only a coincidence, they say, but I would say to these hon. gentlemen that it is perhaps a little too soon to crow very much about the prosperity connected with their administration. It would be more prudent to wait until nearly the end of their term and then a better estimate can be made as to how much of the prosperity we have in the country can be traced to their legislation or their administration. I would just remind these gentlemen that in 1878 when their party were going out of power, there was no such prosperity as this existing in the country ; according to their own statement the country was in a very deplorable condition. I dare say hon. gentlemen have not forgotten the remarks made by Sir Richard Cartwright on that occasion when he said :

It is not often in the commercial history of any country that we are called upon to chronicle so great a reduction not merely in the total volume of our