

Could not get papers down! No, Mr. Speaker, for it was impossible to get a paper admitted till the Address was passed. We were anxious to go on with the public business, but the Opposition used every means to retard and keep back the passing of the Address. How different had been the action of the Opposition this Session. We raised no side issues to impede the action of the Government; we made no opposition to the passage of the Address. Not but that we could have done so, but we thought it best to let it go and proceed with the business of the country, so that we could get away from our various objections. The Government may think they are very strong, but I am sure there is a majority of members on the floors of this House who condemn their acts, especially in the appointment to the Senate. In that instance they have done a gross injustice to the Catholics, by omitting to place a member of that denomination on the list which has been sent home. Every section of the Province and every department should have been regarded,—but what do we find? The interests of the River Counties entirely neglected and overlooked!

Mr. LINDSAY.—You can't say the same for Westmorland.

Mr. SMITH.—No, Mr. Speaker, I am free to say that I think Westmorland County has been regarded to the neglect and injury of other parts of the Province—one member, as much as we could expect or desire. But when I consider that although there are two representatives of the River interests in the Government, and in the appointment of Senators those Counties have been passed by, I cannot but be surprised that they are perfectly innocent, and remain in the Government still. When I was in the Government, these same hon. members said that I was willing to trample upon every right of the people of this Province rather than give up my office; when, if I could have done so with honor to myself and consistency with the requirements of the people, I should have yielded gladly up the reins of office to those who were using every endeavor to get them into their hands. This was the charge against me by the very men who were using backstairs influence and every means of treachery to oust the Government. At that time they said I had no ground of complaint against Governor Gordon, but I should like to hear their opinion of him now. I should be quite willing to take the opinion of the Surveyor General on that question, and abide by it. But then I was all wrong and Governor Gordon was all right. I have no hesitation in saying that I suffered the vilest injustice at that time. But to return: The Government now has not gone on with the

business, although every opportunity has been given them, and the fullest desire expressed to press matters on. The Surveyor General says he is willing to let all that transpires in the Government be known. I wish he would! I think the House would have no objection to hearing something of their movements. I wish we could have had a reporter there, so as to know exactly what has been taking place during the past eight or ten days. He had better suggest the idea to his colleagues, and see if they will be as willing as he to let all be known; I rather think, however, he will find them more covetous than he happens to be at the present time. I am much obliged to the Chief Commissioner for the information he has given that I can get the papers I require by proving for them by Address, and if they are not submitted I shall avail myself of the privilege of doing so.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—The great difference between the late Government and the present is, that the one which was led by my hon. friend from Westmorland held their power against the will of the people, and I hope he does not wish the House to deduce from his remarks that this, or any other, Government will do exactly as they did. Their acts were the most extraordinary and unconstitutional ever known in the history of Responsible Government.

Mr. SMITH.—Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask, I challenge, I dare him to show any act of the late Government that was unconstitutional, or wherein we held power contrary to the will of the people. What was unconstitutional? what was extraordinary? We brought in our Address at the opening of the Session, but the opposition raised by the present Attorney General and others, who were anxious to get into power, was of the most factious and treacherous character. The Attorney General, if not himself providing backstairs influence, was perfectly aware, I have no doubt, of all that was going on. Their acts were of the most extraordinary and unconstitutional character of our times. What does the Attorney General mean? Does he think the House will put up with a continuance of the present state of affairs in the Government? I believe there is strength enough in this House to overturn them, and it seems as though they knew it, and were afraid to proceed with the business of the country.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—I mean that whatever was the course pursued by the late Government during the first ten days of their last Session, the Executive now should not be governed by anything they did. The hon. member speaks of treachery and backstairs influence being used. I neither practised it, nor knew anything about it; but immediately after the Address was brought in, I moved a

vote of want of confidence, and it was carried, so that the Government had to give up the power they held against the wishes of the people, and the Government immediately afterward formed were and have been sustained by a large majority on the floors of this House.

Mr. SMITH.—I challenge the Attorney General to show any differences in the Government during the first ten days of last Session. Never were eight men more united than we were as to the course to be pursued; but how different is now. The Government are in council day and night; they cannot spare time even to be in their seats or to go on with the public business, on account, it is said, of the differences existing among them. We were united, but the Opposition raised all sorts of cries to excite the people's minds against us. Popery, Fenianism, and every other cry that could be devised, was tried to oust us. The people were deceived and imposed upon, and they know it now, and I would be quite willing to go back to them upon the questions then raised. I believe the verdict would be very different now, if the people could only get the chance to deliver it. With regard to our Speech, the Governor declared that he spoke for himself only, and not for the Council. He admitted that no responsibility rested upon us in the matter, and yet they cried out, "There is Union in the Speech."

The Attorney General says he was not aware that backstairs influence was being used against us. I am surprised to hear such a statement, for who was in a better position than he to know of the treachery that was being practised? He knew and others knew, what the answer of the Governor to the Address of the Legislative Council was to be before it was delivered, and before I knew it myself, and I would ask if treachery was not practised there? But now I will come back and again ask the Surveyor General if the correspondence between him and Governor Gordon will be handed in, for he said the contest was quite sharp and Governor Gordon was the victor.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—I wish to make a few remarks further. Now, my hon. friend from Westmorland speaks of Fenianism, and the people being excited by the Opposition raising this cry. But if there was excitement throughout the country, who started it? Did not my hon. friend come into the House, and ask for means to resist a threatened attack of Fenians on the border? Did he not say that he was not in a position to fly before the House particulars at that time, but that his information was thoroughly reliable? The Opposition then said that they need not go into particulars, but if the Government wanted means to put down the threatened trouble, they were willing to