

he will resume his duties in the Public Works Department.

And the First Minister knows, just as well as he knows that the sun will rise to-morrow, that Mr. Sutherland does not intend to come back and take charge of that portfolio, and we all regret it. He knows equally well that the hon. member for London (Mr. Hyman) has been named for that portfolio—named months ago—and has been discharging the duties for the past year. Yet in the face of that fact, this government are so much in terror of the Ontario electorate, that they dare not open the seat in London to-day. You may boast that you have a majority of five hundred or six hundred for the hon. member for London in that city, but that majority was reduced to something like twenty in the last campaign. The excuse given by his friends is that they were over-confident or he would have received his old-time majority. Well, this is the time and place in which, if the government have a scintilla of confidence in the people of Ontario, to show that confidence by throwing down the gauntlet and opening up the constituency of London. But if they should, the hon. member for London (Mr. Hyman) knows, and the cabinet knows, what will be the result. Here we have a cabinet in this humiliating position that it has only two ministers of the Crown on the floor of this House from Ontario. True, there are two in the Senate, but I do not suppose the public are much exercised about them. The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) has been over the stony path and the thorny places. He spent all his life in the constituency of South Brant but that constituency finally turned him out. Then he went over the corduroy road in North Grey but did not dare return there, and finally sought solace in a haven of rest with a solid Liberal majority of 1,000, but that hon. minister knows that so low has his party fallen in the estimation of the people of Ontario that nearly every seat went against it in the last local election. And what is the position of the hon. member for North York (Sir William Mulock)? That riding was long in the Liberal fold, but the hon. gentleman knows that if it were open to-day it would return an opponent to the present government. Then there is my hon. friend from Centre York (Mr. Campbell), who, we all know, is knocking at the threshold for admission to the cabinet, and who represents a riding specially constructed for him. He has been standing at the door waiting and watching long, but they dare not open it for him, and it is a notorious fact that another gentleman who has been aspiring to cabinet promotion, the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) has openly gone out in revolt against the government on this question. Yet the government intend to rush this Bill through the House this session. If we were in the last days of a last session of parliament, the government would never be able to put

their Bill through, but if this Bill cannot be killed in this House, the government which brought it down will be killed when they go before the people of the Northwest. This government may force the Bill through by means of what I would call a machine, if it were parliamentary, or what I would call a servile majority, if the rules of parliament would allow it; it may be voted through by a majority who have promises of preferment and place; but all I can say is that the government will not get preferment at the hands of the electorate when they go before the country. There is one power which is irresistible and that is the power of the people, and those gentlemen who vote for this measure will certainly stultify themselves in the eyes of their constituents in the Northwest Territories. They know that they are stultifying themselves to-day. Their own leaders have told them, as the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Stockton) told them a little while ago, that this cabinet is afraid to trust the people who are most vitally interested. It knows that it cannot have a cabinet minister elected in the west. What is the standing of the government to-day in the great city of Toronto? Why, a large number of their friends want to precipitate a fight there, but they will only do it on one condition and that is that the policy of the government on this question must be condemned. What a pitiable spectacle does not this government represent? In a riding like Centre Toronto, which was only carried by the late Mr. Clarke, probably the most popular man in that city, by a bare majority of three hundred in the last contest, this government and their followers dare not put up a candidate to-day. They call however on their followers to vote for this measure and to trust that in time it will be forgotten. They should remember that there was a statesman named Stratton in Ontario who asked the people to forget, but the people did not; and we have a spectacle presented to-day by this government exactly similar to that which was presented by the Ross government in Ontario, and in like manner when this government does go to the people it will have as little chance as it expects to have in Centre Toronto and share the same fate which overtook the late local government. It may win Russell and Prescott but will be beyond help in the rest of the province.

Motion (Mr. R. L. Borden) to adjourn negatived.

THE ONTARIO BOUNDARIES.

Mr. SAM. BARKER. Before the Orders of the Day are called I might ask the right hon. leader of the House if there has been any correspondence between his government or any member of it and the late government of the Hon. G. W. Ross or any member of it, with regard to any extension of the boun-