

ada he will find that the people of this Dominion will not stand for interference with the autonomy of the provinces, will not stand for broken pledges, will not stand for the shackling of these great provinces of the Northwest with onerous restrictions as to education and the administration of their public lands. Why have we no Minister of the Interior to-day? Why is the government afraid to appoint a Minister of the Interior and send him for election to the people of the west? I have not the assurance which some gentlemen on the other side have to say that they speak for the people of the Northwest Territories when they have no mandate to speak on this question; I do not pretend to speak for the people of the Northwest Territories except to say that they want to be left alone to attend to their own business, but I do believe that the people of the Northwest Territories will treat this government as it deserves to be treated for interfering with their provincial rights. The government does not dare to appoint a Minister of the Interior because they know that the people of the Northwest would reject him by an overwhelming vote. The Prime Minister is not here to-night, but in times past he has learned something from this side of the House, and I invite the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Finance who are now present to tell the Prime Minister that it is his duty to appoint a Minister of the Interior and to test the feelings of the people of the west on this question. That is the constitutional way to proceed, but these gentlemen do not want things done constitutionally. They had not much respect for the constitution when, the Minister of Finance being absent in England, they introduced without his knowledge this Bill which deals with great financial issues seriously affecting the Dominion. They had not much respect for the constitution when in the absence of their Minister of the Interior, who is specially charged with matters pertaining to the west, they drafted and proposed in parliament this measure which vitally concerns the people whose interest he was specially charged to guard. Let them appoint their Minister of the Interior and they can soon find out whether we are right or they are right. Sir, as a man trying to do the honourable thing and representing an honourable constituency, I have no course left to me but to vote for the amendment of the leader of the opposition. In doing so, I believe I am voicing the opinions of the Reformers as well as the Conservatives, of the respectable Roman Catholics as well as the respectable Protestants of my county. If I do that I am doing my whole duty, and, Sir, if the members of this cabinet would study more what the people want and not what may suit the political exigencies of the moment they would be representing the people of Canada better than they are to-day.

Mr. L. P. DEMERS moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 12.15 a.m. Thursday.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, March 30, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### VACANCY IN THE CABINET.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER (North Toronto). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether he has any information for the House in reference to the filling of the vacant portfolio of the Minister of the Interior? It is a question of a great deal of moment, and we have not yet had a really thorough answer from the Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). I have no information to give to my hon. friend to-day.

### INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. FOSTER. Then I suppose I will be equally successful when I make a plea for that return with reference to the transport of hay to the lower provinces, which was ordered by the House on January 25. A second order in reference to the matter was passed a fortnight later, and the return to that has been brought down, but it is absolutely useless without the other.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I shall inquire about that.

### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the second reading of Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta, and the amendment of Mr. R. L. Borden thereto.

Mr. L. P. DEMERS (St. Johns and Iberville). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Lincoln and Niagara reminded us, last evening, several times in the course of his speech that he comes from that part of Canada surnamed the Garden of Ontario. It was necessary that he should do so, as his violent delivery and forcible language might have led us to believe that he was not a resident of that rich and beautiful country surrounding St. Catharines, but rather that his mind had been impressed by the sight of Niagara's surging waters and his ears filled with the