

cumstance, suggested to him the idea of dividing the House on the matter, and he did divide the House. What do we see on the present occasion? We see the Minister of the Interior absent from the first day of the session. Whether his absence was owing to ill-health I know not, and I think the public are very little concerned about it. But we do know that as soon as the First Minister introduced certain legislation into this House, the Minister of the Interior was here to dissent from the proposition of the government; and we know that as a result of his dissent he has gone out of the cabinet and is out of it to-day; and every one knows that the First Minister and his cabinet are afraid to take the bull by the horns—I am speaking metaphorically—and test popular opinion in the west, just as they are afraid to test popular opinion in the province of Ontario. What is the report of the hon. gentleman's own political friends from the city of Toronto? It is that he has become a Czar and an autocrat. Mr. Robinette, their candidate in the last election came down here the other day; he was seen here; his presence was reported in the newspapers; and because Mr. Robinette informed the First Minister that he would not be a supporter of the government's policy in regard to the Northwest, the Czar, the leader of this administration, says there must be no contest in Centre Toronto. Now, I am going to appeal to the First Minister to remember the watchword of the late premier of the province of Ontario, his own right arm, which was paralyzed on the 25th of January, when the people got a chance. What was the watchword of the Hon. George W. Ross? It was: 'Build up Ontario.' What did that mean? It meant to build up Ontario in every possible way—mentally, morally, educationally and commercially; and I appeal to the First Minister to build up Ontario to-day. In the first place, build it up morally by keeping faith with the public there. The First Minister went through the province of Ontario last November—but I will not harrow up his feelings by mentioning the places where he spoke, because every one knows what followed—desolation and disaster to the Liberal candidates. He came to East Simcoe, and the result there is seen. He went to the city of Toronto and to other points and said, it is true, my cabinet representatives from Ontario are a rum lot; I have one in the Senate who is past four score years; I have Sir Richard Cartwright on my hands, but he is to be transferred to the Senate at an early day; although the Minister of Customs is a benevolent, good-hearted soul, he is not known beyond the confines of his own bailiwick. But, he said, I am going to strengthen the cabinet in Ontario; I am going to bring in a big man in the person of Mr. Aylesworth. The First Minister

Mr. BENNETT.

has not got Mr. Aylesworth yet, but there is a chance to get him. There are two counties in Ontario which he could carry, and only two. Why does he not give Mr. Aylesworth a chance to run in Russell or in Prescott? I know he will not trust himself in North Oxford, nor will he trust himself anywhere else in Ontario.

An hon. MEMBER. Centre Toronto.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Aylesworth knows Toronto; he lives there. Now, the First Minister has not kept faith with the electors of the province of Ontario. He promised them last November that if they would only support him, he would build up a stable aggregation from Ontario. What has he done? There was a time in this House when our dull moments were enlivened by the oratory of Sir Richard Cartwright; but he has stolen Sir Richard Cartwright from the House and sent him to the Senate. We have left only our benevolent friend the Minister of Customs and our soporific friend the Postmaster General. I think it has come to a pretty pass in the province of Ontario that we have to content ourselves with the cabinet representation that we have. But let us go a little further. Let us bear in mind that these two gentlemen are seriously restricted—that they are not allowed to perform any acts of importance. They are allowed to manage departments which extract money from the pockets of the people; neither of them is allowed to spend a dollar, practically; but when it comes to spending money, all the departments for that purpose go to ministers from the other provinces. True, the Minister of Public Works for a time had some disposition of patronage, but the Minister of Marine and Fisheries came up and filched that from the province of Ontario, and to-day what is left for the Minister of Public Works amounts to practically nothing, and even that is not controlled by a minister who has the consent and approval of a constituency in Ontario. It is quite true that my hon. friend who represents North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland), and whose absence we all regret just as sincerely as any gentleman on the other side of the House, is practically out of politics. The kindly reference made by the hon. leader of the opposition did not deserve the reply which it received from the First Minister. We all acknowledge that circumstances sometimes arise in politics to deprive both political parties of some of their friends and leaders; and it is to-day a notorious fact, admitted by hon. gentlemen opposite, that Mr. Sutherland is not coming back to this House. Nay, I go further and say that I saw a letter myself the other day, written by a friend of Mr. Sutherland in Mexico, where he is, in which it is stated that his health was precarious, and that no one seriously believes