

Mr. WILMOT.—I was anxious not to join. I was not willing to go in without some voice in the formation of it.

Mr. GILLMOR.—My hon. friend had a voice in the formation of the Government. There might have been a difference of opinion, for it is difficult to get men who can run their elections and discharge the duties of the Departments.

[Here there was quite a lengthy discussion between Messrs. Wilmot, Smith and Hatheway, about arrangements made at the formation of the Government and the matters upon which differences of opinion existed.]

Mr. GILLMOR.—One difference in the Government was in reference to the appointment of a Mr. Travis, and as there was no vacancy there could be no appointment. We were all anxious to assist our friends in every way we could consistent with the public interest.

My late colleague (Mr. Wilmot) said he would not sustain any Government that would allow a member of the Opposition to carry a resolution to reduce the salary of a public official. He heard the discussion regarding the reduction of the Auditor General's salary, and I did not hear him say much against it, but some of my colleagues said he had found fault; but he remained with the Government from that time until his resignation, and never made any complaint, but has taken part in all the Government has done, and is responsible for all.

Mr. WILMOT.—The cause of dissatisfaction on my part was on account of the President of the Council saying that the Government wished the House to fix the salary, when, by order of the House, the Government themselves were to fix it; and I am now charged with not taking the Audit Office on account of the reduction of salary.

[Here another discussion arose between Mr. Hatheway and Mr. Wilmot.]

Mr. GILLMOR.—My hon. friend and late colleague says he never was opposed to the abstract question of Union of the Colonies, and that the Government has done him injustice. The abstract question of union has never been submitted to the electors of New Brunswick, and an abstract question of union never will be, except the Confederates can work it in some way to assist them to carry the Quebec Scheme. To submit the abstract question of union to the people would be an abstract absurdity, for the conditions and details of any agreement is the all-important part of it.

Mr. FISHER.—I would ask my hon. friend what he means, then, by the paragraph in the Address in answer to the Speech, which refers to that subject? In answer to a question put by Mr. Wilmot, did you hear me say that I was not opposed to union in the Address?

Mr. GILLMOR.—I remember to have heard His Excellency say that there were some members in the Executive who were not opposed to union, and he pointed to Mr. Wilmot and Mr. Hutchison; and I have heard Mr. Wilmot say he preferred a Legislative Union to a Federal Union.

Mr. SMITH.—You (Mr. Wilmot) never said before the Council that you were not opposed to the abstract principle of union or British North America.

Mr. WILMOT.—I did, and am authorized by Judge Allen to say so.

Mr. FISHER.—My hon. friend says the mere question of union in itself

amounts to nothing. I would ask him what he means by the eleventh paragraph in the Address?

Mr. GILLMOR.—The time has not come to explain that. It explains itself. We are now considering a vote of want of confidence. (A member, —You say it is a mere dodge.) I say the question of abstract union is a mere dodge to catch somebody—for it means anything, or nothing. It is a phrase manufactured to meet every person's view, and bring them in to work up a majority against the Government. Do you suppose, Mr. Speaker, that the Province will ever be called upon to decide the question of union without going into the details and conditions? Some are for the Quebec Scheme, some for union in the abstract, and some opposed to both these, but are opposed to the Government, and they hope, by this dodging, to carry a majority on this amendment.

My hon. friend (Mr. McClellan) states that dame rumor says the Government have made a great many offers of office to hold a majority on this vote. Dame rumor now says the Opposition have promised all the offices, should they succeed, and are now offering six hundred pounds for a vote. (Mr. Fisher, —Did my hon. friend say I have offered anybody an office? I challenge him to produce the man to whom I have offered office or money.) Dame rumor says they have filled, in prospective, all the offices, and are now offering money.

There are no persons more liberal than those who have nothing to give. I am quite sure that the Government would not insult any hon. member by holding out any offer as a bribe, and I am sure there is no constituency that has sent any man mean enough to sell himself.

There are very extraordinary efforts being made to prolong this debate in order that some fortuitous circumstance may turn up to help the Opposition. If it is true that such liberal offers have been made in the anticipated new Government, the liberality of the Opposition is much like the man who was exceedingly willing to give away milk after his cows went dry.

The Opposition have to get the present Government out, and then get in themselves, before they have anything to give, and before that is done there is rather a serious operation to go through.

Mr. KERR. After this very exciting discussion, which has taken us by surprise. I may say it is a wonder how the Government have so long held together, when we know the difference of opinion they have maintained on almost all questions; it is surprising how they were enabled to come together and sit at the same Council board. I have been in the House fourteen years. The President of the Council came in the same day that I did. He has had the sweets of office, and I have been left out in the cold. I regret the warmth to which the debate has given rise. It is not desirable we should have such scenes, more especially between those who have the destinies of this Province in their charge to a large extent. I did hope—after the Hon. Provincial Secretary had stated in the House that he would not say hard things, as he was too well bred for that—he would not have gone to the extreme length to which he has. I think there was some things he might

have omitted without marring the beauty of his speech. He has thrown a bomb shell among the members of the Government, causing them to reveal the secrets of the Council Chamber of last season, and if these scenes were frequent there must have been some hard feelings. I am not surprised that there was difference of opinion there. I believe this Government was formed upon one single idea. The most discordant elements were brought together, and the members of the Government scarcely agreed upon any question except anti-Confederation. I regret the dissolution of the Assembly took place. I believe if the House had met last winter, and the subject of Confederation had been discussed, and the debates had gone abroad in the country, people would have understood the arguments for and against that great question, and at the next election we would have had the matter settled one way or the other. Confederation is the main question now, for every speaker has said more or less about it. Before the last election, I, like many others, was undecided whether the scheme propounded in Quebec was one this country should adopt, but I thought that disturbance might take place, as it was expected that at the close of the American war, disbanded soldiers who were without employment might create disturbance on our borders, and if we did all in our power to assist ourselves by entering into confederation which was highly approved of in England, the whole power of the nation would be put forth for our assistance. I did not think this union was going to give us such great prosperity as some predicted, neither did I think it would bring desolation and ruin on this Province. No great change of this kind is ever made without a great deal of dissatisfaction being expressed by the minority. In Scotland there was no dissolution of the Legislature when the union with England was effected, and since that union has been consummated, that country has prospered as well as any other portion of the world, although the representation of that country in Parliament is very small. In Ireland the union was not brought about by an appeal to the people. Union appears to be the order of the day; we have union in commercial matters, union in Australia and the Cape Coast Colonies. It has been stated that union is strength. It certainly would be strength for a poor country like this to be joined to a large wealthy country. And it is my opinion that the confederation of these colonies must ultimately take place. After the election no man was qualified to sit in council, or fit for any office throughout the country, unless he was known as an anti-Confederate. In the North there was only one member chosen to represent the whole of the Northern Counties, where we have had three during the last ten or fifteen years, all men of ability. I do not mean to say the present member is not capable, for I believe there are few better business men in the Province. He is a strong Conservative, and is a man that will think and act for himself; but there were other men in the North quite as competent to have taken a seat at the Council Board. We have been left with only one gentleman in the Council, and that gentleman attending to his business