

far enough. There are many evils that might be remedied, and although this did not take hold of them all, yet it was a step in the right direction, and he trusted it would not be opposed on that ground.

Mr. NEEDHAM would not speak on the merits of the Bill, but as it was understood yesterday that no Bill of a general nature should be brought before the House under existing circumstances, he should move that progress be reported.

Mr. LEWIS said that in Albert County the ballot had been found to work unsatisfactorily, and he was opposed to it. If the Bill provided for open voting, he should vote for it, but otherwise he should support the motion for reporting progress.

Progress was then reported.

The House then went into committee on a Bill to establish a Board of Health in the City of Fredericton. Mr. SUTTON in the Chair. This Bill passed by the addition of a section including the town of Woodstock, by concurrence of Town Council.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on a Bill to authorize the Woodstock Railway Company to issue debentures. Mr. LEWIS in the Chair. The Bill was agreed to.

The House went into Committee on a Bill to provide for Retoratory Schools in this Province. Mr. BEVERIDGE in the Chair.

Mr. ANGLIN said a similar Bill had passed the House last Session, but had been thrown out in the Legislative Council. The present Bill had been prepared in accordance with the amendments suggested by Hon. Mr. KINNEAR, and as it was now satisfactory to all parties, he hoped no opposition would be raised. The Bill was agreed to.

The House went into Committee on a Bill to incorporate the Miramichi, Richibucto and Shediac Branch Railroad Company.

Mr. WILLISTON explained that this Bill was drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Subsidy Act, and was exactly similar to the Bill brought in by hon. member for York (Mr. FISHER) with regard to the Fredericton Railway, with the exception of the last section, which provided for an increase of the Subsidy to \$20,000 per mile.

The Bill was agreed to by striking out the last section.

The House went into Committee on a Bill to allow the City of Fredericton to assess for agricultural purposes. Mr. NEEDHAM in the Chair.

The Bill was agreed to.

The House went into Committee on a Bill to allow the County of York to assess for agricultural purposes. Mr. NEEDHAM in the Chair.

The Bill was agreed to.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on a Bill to allow the Corporation of St. John to issue debentures for street purposes. Mr. SCOVILL in the Chair.

Progress was reported.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. ANGLIN presented a Petition from William Thomson and other merchants of St. John, praying that the Bill now before the House for the Extension of Saint John Street, may be passed into a Law.

#### RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

HON. MR. SMITH said he was expected on this occasion to make some explanation of the position he and his colleagues occupied before the House and country. They prepared their resignation on Monday last, and sent it up on Tuesday a little before noon. Last night (Thursday) about six o'clock he had received his Excellency's reply, accepting the same. He was not aware whether another Government had been framed, but if not, the House and country occupied a novel and unparalleled position. If one had been formed, it was somewhat extraordinary that no announcement of the fact had been made to the public. They were now brought down to the position that the great question of Responsible Government had to be fought over again. The great question to be decided by the House and country was whether they should submit to the whim and will of a nominee of Downing street, or be governed by a Government responsible to the people for all their acts. He was now going to speak of the Governor, and whilst he wished to speak respectfully of the high position His Excellency occupied as the representative of Royalty in this Province, he should yet speak of him as a man, for they must remember that however lofty the position he occupied, he was still but a man. High birth and lofty position, a cocked hat and gold lace, did not make the man, and many a lowly garb and humble position covered up greater worth than is sometimes possessed by men in high and commanding positions. He should, therefore, stand there to defend his actions and position against the charges which had been brought against him from whatever source they might come. It had been charged and whispered about, that great revelations were to be made in His Excellency's reply to the resignation of the Government, and one of these statements was, that he (Mr. S.) was bound hand and foot by certain papers which he had signed, conclusively proving him to be a traitor to his country, and by his actions to have compromised the best interests of the people.

Mr. FISHER asked if the papers relating to the resignation were not to be read.

Mr. SMITH intended to read the correspondence that had passed between the Government and the Governor, and he should also read, as part of his speech, a paper he had prepared, which he believed would fully justify him in the eyes of the House and of the people. It had come down to a point of veracity between him and the Governor, and when he was through the House would be able to decide who was to be believed.

Mr. WILMOT said it seemed as though the hon. member was making an attack on the Governor, and he would like to know whether the correspondence was to be submitted, and if so, he thought it would be wise (if the correspondence was not concluded) to wait until it was closed before going on with the matter. The Lieutenant Governor was not represented on the floors of the House, and had no means of replying to any attack made on him. Under these circumstances it would be best to wait until the paper in which the Attorney General had answered the charges of the Governor

was sent to him and an answer obtained.

Mr. SMITH said the resignation of the Government had been accepted, and he was not bound to reply to his Excellency's long paper. He might, and probably should, send it to him, but he was bound to lay the reasons of his actions before the House and justify himself before the people of this Province. It had been rumored about that strange and startling developments were to be made in his Excellency's reply, and among them the fearful charge that he (Mr. S.) had signed a paper which in his present position would destroy his character and blacken his reputation for ever. But let them bring that paper forward and prove the assertion made; he felt that he stood there before the members of that House and the people of this country, true to his integrity. True, he had been placed in positions of extraordinary temptation and difficulty—offers of a very alluring character had been made to him during the past summer, but he thanked God he had been able to withstand them. He would speak of some of the sacrifices he had made to the principles he professed, not in a spirit of egotism, but to clear up the charges made against him, for he had made sacrifices, and with the help of God he was prepared to make still more. A time of trial was coming, when men would have to prove their principles—conspirators within and enemies without—and the rights of the people must be maintained against all who attempt to override them. Responsible Government they had had, but now it lay bleeding before the people of this Province. He did not wish to speak hastily of the Lieut. Governor, but while he would keep in mind the high position he held, he should yet treat him as a man.

Mr. FISHER again said he should like to see the whole papers laid before the House.

Mr. SMITH said if he would wait with patience, he and the House should know, and the people should know, all about it. It had been rumored that when the Governor's communication was made known, something extraordinary was going to occur. He (Mr. S.) was to be politically destroyed for life. If the country, and the interests of the people demanded it, he was willing to suffer political martyrdom, but if he was to be sacrificed to the Scheme of Confederation, he would resist to the last. This was the plan they had laid to destroy him. Was there ever such an occurrence before, that whilst a War of Confidence debate was going on, plans should be devised and carried out to effect the overthrow of a Government? For four weeks he had sat in that House while the debate was pending, and knowing what was transpiring, he had no hesitation in saying that life had been a burden to him. All knew that he would have willingly done anything to be relieved of the burden which was resting upon him, but duty and the circumstances compelled him to stand to his principles, while his character had been maligned and his reputation attacked in a manner he had not deserved. When the hon. member for the city of St. John (Mr. Wetmore) made his onslaught upon him, he felt hurt beyond measure. For that gentleman he had had feelings of personal friendship for more than fifteen years. Every step in advancement made by him in his profession had given him unmeasured