

Wilmot, in the course of this debate, had drawn from a member of the Government an admission that he was correct in his statements. The Provincial Secretary had been forced to admit that what Mr. Wilmot had said was true. Was it not, he would ask hon. members, a humiliating fact that the Government had been obliged to state on the floors of the House, that their statement in this public document was not the fact? That admission on this part was, he conceived, enough to induce hon. members to refuse their confidence to the Government, and to vote for the amendment.

The leader of the Government, the hon. member of the Government proceeded to say, had taken a very active part in the Governor's salary question. Those hon. members who were in the House when it was defeated, would remember the force of the speeches made by his hon. colleague on that question,—how he made the halls of the Legislature ring with the fervor of his eloquence. From a report of one of his speeches, in the *Head Quarters* newspaper, he found that he (Attorney General) then argued that it was not money alone, but a great constitutional question was involved in the debate. The resolution to reduce the Governor's salary was not carried; but the question was settled in such a manner as to be understood that the Governor should receive it at the old rate. He (Mr. Gilbert) with his humble abilities, supported him in the position he (Attorney General) took. But what did they find, now that his hon. colleague was no longer in the Opposition, but the leader of a Government? Turning to the public accounts, he (Attorney General) had allowed the Governor to draw his salary at the advanced rate. (Here the hon. member quoted from the public accounts in proof, and showed that the private secretary, whose salary was also involved in the question, had received £50 more than he was entitled to under the old rate.) Here they found his hon. colleague, who had taken so bold a stand then, on that question, now bending the servile knee.

It was said the other day, in England, by Mr. D'Israeli, that it was an honor to be elected over to the Speaker's chair, but that it was a far higher honor to be elected twice. That saying might be applied to those members who had been elected twice to represent the same constituency. It showed that, in the fulfillment of their first trust they had done their duty and had earned the confidence of their constituents. With regard to himself, he had twice had the honor of representing the constituency of Westmorland. When he first came to the House he came opposed to the policy of the Government, of which the Attorney General was then a member. Now it was rumored that he was indebted for his present seat in the Legislature to his hon. colleague, that it was his influence that had carried him in. He denied that there was any ground for the rumor. During the last election his colleague and himself had been thrown together by the force of public opinion; it was on the great question that was then agitating the mind of the country that they had come together. He knew that he had lost a vast number of votes on account of his opposition to Confederation. It was the force of public opinion, as he had said, that had thrown them together, and it was the current of

public opinion in the country running against the Quebec Scheme that had carried them into the House. The County of Westmorland might be entirely under the guidance of his hon. colleague; but when it was said that he (Mr. Gilbert) was returned by his influence, an assertion was made that was not founded on fact. From what he knew of the County of Westmorland he did not think that it lay under the dictation of his colleague or any other man. With reference to the position his colleague and himself stood with regard to each other, they had been opposed almost on every question that had come up. On the subject of law reform he had been opposed by his colleague, and whenever he had brought any measure into the House he had most generally met with opposition from that quarter. His hon. colleague, the leader of the Government, was in the habit of saying that he was not actuated by desire for office. No doubt, when he expressed himself as uninfluenced by considerations of emolument, or personal aggrandizement, he did so in order to give weight to his arguments. But what weight was there in all those professions of disinterestedness? What had the hon. members found when this Government was first formed? Why, they found the leader of the Government elevated above all his confederates, and elected President of the Council, an office never before heard of in any Government of the Province. He had heard of statues being raised to men who had done some memorable deed, who had performed some signal service to their country; he had read of men being honored for deeds that ought to be commemorated, but he would ask any hon. member to point to one single measure that had for its object the improvement of the country that the leader of the Government had introduced; he would ask any hon. member to show if he had ever done anything that had been useful to the country, to show any reason why he should be elevated above his fellows. They would look look in vain, they would entirely fail to show why he should be considered worthy of extraordinary honor. Was not his taking the office of President of the Council a direct contradiction of his repeated assertions that he was not actuated by the desire of office; that he was not influenced by pride and vain glory? Did it not prove that he, after all, was actuated by the motives and feelings that influenced ordinary men? And that he was as eager as the most ordinary man (notwithstanding he made a boast, and said he cared not for office,) for its position and emoluments. Mr. Gilbert then proceeded to refer to the Crown Land investigation, and the position taken by his colleague towards Mr. Fisher, then Attorney General of the Government, of which he was a member without office. Before the report of the committee of investigation was submitted, before there was evidence of the extent to which Mr. Fisher was implicated in the Crown Lands transactions, it was said his colleague made a most damaging speech against Mr. Fisher, and when Mr. Fisher left the Government, his hon. colleague accepted the vacated position of Attorney General. And further, notwithstanding that he had denounced, in the strongest terms, the jobbing in the

Crown Lands of the Province, although he should have been the man, above all men, who should have investigated the transaction; notwithstanding he had denounced the taking up of large blocks of valuable lands by Mr. Inchee, and said they had been obtained fraudulently. He never moved in the matter, but, on the contrary, himself became the purchaser from Mr. Inchee, and possessor of very large quantities of that very property; and, moreover, he had reinstated Mr. Inchee in the office.

His then colleague had denounced the Inter-colonial Railway in the very strongest terms. He had said that it would be the ruin of the country. In the celebrated memorandum, in which he set forth his reason for resigning his seat in the Government, speaking of the Inter-colonial Railway, he said that if it was built, that it would entail such an amount of debt upon the Province, that posterity would have to live upon the cold meat of yesterday. But where did they find his hon. colleague now? They found him not only willing to build the Inter-colonial Railway, but any amount of railways, at six per cent. He did not wish to talk in an offensive vein, but how could he justify his position now, when he remembered his former position. Then he prophesied ruin and desolation if the Province carried out its Railway policy. Now he was perfectly willing to pledge the credit of the Province to any amount, and build any quantity of Railroads. Let the House mark the inconsistency of his hon. friend. Notwithstanding his repeated avowals that he would not accept office; notwithstanding that he told the warm-hearted people of the County of Westmorland that he cared not for office, that it was his proudest wish and sole aim to attend to their interests, to serve them, and to do the country good. Notwithstanding all these disinterested declarations, they found him taking an office with £600 a year attached, as soon as a vacancy occurred, and that the election came off in the shortest possible time. He did not wish to throw out any insinuation against the worthy Sheriff of the County, but he would say that when he appointed the election to come off ten days after the writ was issued, he took the very sharpest time the law allowed.

Mr. Gilbert then proceeded to give details about the Westmorland election, throughout which he had been accused of taking a very active part in opposition to his hon. colleague, and in bringing out Mr. Palmer; and, in consequence of the course he had taken, it was said a strong feeling against himself had been manifested by the people of the County. On the day of nomination he met his hon. colleague on the hustings, and it had been published throughout the length and breadth of the land, that in reply to his colleague's attack upon him he (Mr. G.) could not get a hearing. That was false. When he did rise to answer the attack, he was prevented from speaking for about fifteen minutes by an uproar round the hustings; that that noise and uproar was quelled, and he had afterwards the satisfaction of addressing the people of Westmorland for three quarters of an hour. It was the largest assemblage he had ever seen, on any occasion, in the County. The people might have been counted by the acre. When it was known that Palmer had withdrawn from the