

country. It is the policy of the Government, if there are no difficulties in the way and the finances of the country permit, to prosecute this work. Some charge us with being cautious and non-progressive. It is a characteristic of my nature to be cautious, and I think the same rules which we apply to our private affairs will apply as well to Government transactions. I have been fearful of rushing headlong in debt. The interest of every debt contracted in this country must be met by the people. I believe the people think Western Extension and the connection with Nova Scotia to be necessary; therefore I say the Government is prepared to proceed with those lines as soon as possible; but I say, and I think the House will agree with me, that existing laws preclude immediate action for the accomplishment of this work.

Mr. CORAM.—The City of St. John have not pledged themselves to take stock to the amount of \$400,000.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—It is under the consideration of the Corporation, therefore it is the same thing as if it had been done; they have a right to do it.

Mr. WETMORE.—I should like to be got right. My impression was, that this resolution had actually passed, and I think I am correct.

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN.—the matter was referred to a Committee to prepare a Bill authorizing them to take that amount of stock.

Mr. CORAM.—The Committee never reported.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—If the Council Board affirmed the proposition, and appointed a committee to prepare a Bill, it is not material whether the Bill is under consideration, or has actually passed. We would prefer that companies should build our roads, and if they go on, the Government is disposed to give them every facility. With regard to Schools, I agree with my hon. colleague, in thinking that the present system of inspection of Schools is entirely useless, giving a great amount of dissatisfaction throughout the country; but we feel we have no time to bring before the House this Session, one of the most difficult subjects with which any Government has to do. My hon. colleague says he does not like the paragraph relating to the Militia. On this subject, we have agreed heretofore. I have not altogether made up my mind upon that question, but I think from the views which I have expressed before the country, that my constituents will be satisfied that no larger amount will be given for that purpose than will be necessary under all the circumstances. In Nova Scotia they have given \$81,000. It is expected by the British Government that we should do something for Militia defence. If a few thousand pounds will satisfy the British Government that we feel our responsibility, and try to do what we can to prepare our country to defend the honor of the Empire, we should cheerfully give it. But I, as a member of the Government, will not give my sanction to devote a larger sum of money for that purpose than is absolutely required. I feel satisfied, that when the correspondence with the Imperial Government upon this question is laid before you, the amount we may recommend will give satisfaction to the House, as I am confident it will throughout the country.

Mr. GILBERT.—The opposition I made should not have taken my hon. colleague by surprise. After hearing the result of the different elections throughout the Province, it was felt to be inevitable that

we must have a new Government. I then stated distinctly what my views would be in regard to the policy of the incoming Government. I stated some of the principles which I have laid down today. I announced to the constituency of Westmorland, in his hearing, what were my views. If, as appears from the speech of my hon. colleague, they have not had time to foreshadow their policy, I am prepared to give them a fair, honest support upon their measures and acts, aided by my best judgment.

Mr. McMILLAN stated that according to the way his understood the fifth section of the Address, the only difficulty in the way for the immediate construction of the work, for the completion of the European and North American Railway, was the existing laws; he denied that there was any such laws in existence; he stated that Mr. Livesey had not fulfilled the requirements of that act, consequently was not entitled to its privileges; therefore, the Government were free to build that portion of the work, and had pledged themselves to do so immediately, but he believed that the finances of the country did not justify them in giving such a pledge; he would declare his opposition to the completion of this railroad as a Government work. His hon. friend, Mr. Smith, had opposed the Government because they pledged the Province for £20,000 a year, to construct the Intercolonial railroad, and now he, as a leader of the Government, according to his own announcement, would pledge the Province to the extent of £97,000 annually, on the lines of road authorised to be constructed by the legislation of last year.

Hon. Mr. HATHEWAY.—The position which I occupy towards my hon. friend is different from what it was in the late House. We have been returned, opposed to each other, on this great Confederation Scheme. If he had been a colleague of mine, and the constituents of my County had approved of the course which he had taken, my seat would have been vacated in twenty-four hours. He states that there is no law in existence to prevent us from going on and connecting Moncton with the Nova Scotia boundary. Why, Mr. Livesey is even now in Halifax entering into engagements for the building of this road, upon the faith of the Government of New Brunswick. I would like my hon. friend, to read the speech of the late Provincial Secretary, as reported and delivered in Carleton, wherein he is reported to have said: "That he was willing to guarantee the interest upon the whole money required in the construction of the work." That is, he was prepared to make Western Extension a Government work, besides giving the £20,000 subsidy for the construction of the Intercolonial railway. If my hon. friend, the ex-Surveyor General, is opposed to Western Extension, why did he not tender his resignation when a Bill for that purpose was brought in from St. John, and a pressure was brought to bear against the Government to compel them to adopt it. I would like to call his attention to the course pursued by the late Government, in reference to the route of the Intercolonial railroad. One day they would be telling the people of the North Shore the road would go by that route, and the next they would be telling the people of Sussex by the centre route, and again telling the people along the river St. John, that the road would come by this route, and this very city would blossom as the roses from the benefits accruing from this railroad. My hon. friend, Mr. Gilbert, would connect the duties of the Postmaster General with

my office. Why not impose upon me the duties of Attorney General likewise? I would like to know whether the office of Solicitor General would suit him? The Government only want a fair trial; they do not wish to make use of any side issues; they do not wish to tell the people of St. John they will build Western Extension, and the people of the North that they will not build it. Those opposed to Western Extension will vote against the paragraph, for it is a side question. Suppose the paragraph is rejected, the effect of it will amount to nothing. I feel bound to defend the late Government from any charge brought against them for their extravagance. The only act of that Government, for which I do not hold myself responsible, is their action in Canada, for I recommended the appointment of Delegates to go there. There are other men in the country, who, if they had adopted as independent a course as I have done, they might have been in the same proud position that I am, that is, members of the present Government. The people of the country expect us to get through with the business, and pass the necessary Bill as quickly as possible.

Mr. McMILLAN.—I deny that there were any pledges made that the Intercolonial railroad would go by the North Shore. No candidate ever stated such a thing at all. He says, if other members had adopted the same independent course as he had, they might have been in the same proud position. Now, I differed from them on one point, and one only, that is, representation by population, but I considered the matter well, and believing that other interests should be understood, and to depart from that basis the difficulty was where to stop, outside of that, my voice was for it from the very first.

AFTERNOON SESSION—2 P. M.

Mr. McO'LELLAN.—Some explanation should be given by the Government in reference to this project concerning railroads. "A certain section of the speech says: 'You will do well to enquire whether it is possible to afford further facilities for the development and improvement of the railway system, &c.'" It is desirable those roads should be undertaken by companies. If there has been a proposition made, and accepted by the Government, the result of this announcement in the speech, will be to embarrass those companies.

Col. BOYD.—We would like to hear what the delegation, appointed for the purpose of considering the practicability of effecting a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces, have done? We have got no report of their doings. The people do not care about having their money squandered away, without having something to show for it. Why is not this report brought before us at once? That delegation was sent the 9th April last, to perform certain duties, which duties they did not discharge. They then went to Canada, and allowed the Canadians to haul the wool over their eyes, by giving balls and parties, until, I believe, they got nearly crazy, and allowed themselves to be bought and sold for thirty cents a head. But when the question was left to the people, they said, No! we don't want your Confederation Scheme, you only want to aggrandize yourselves at the expense of the people of this Province. Having told you I am opposed to this Scheme, I now tell you that I intend to vote for this address, paragraph by paragraph.

Mr. LINDSAY.—I have heard a great