

boring Province, with its large population and extensive area, only contained 41 members, or three more than the number that would compose the popular branch in this Province when Confederation was in operation. It was absurd to talk of departmental influence in the Local Legislature. It could be shown, by reference to the existing House of Assembly, that departmental influence did not prevent gentlemen from giving the most determined opposition to the Government. For instance, notwithstanding the manner in which an important public department had been filled, the hon. member for South Kings (Dr. Brown) had opposed the Administration for years past. To such an extent, indeed, had the opposition of that hon. member been carried that he would have been quite willing to prevent his own county having the advantages of railway communication with the capital. He (Dr. T.) had no hesitation in saying that, from his knowledge of the character of the men sent by the people to represent them, he was positive that the Government hereafter in the Local Legislature, would have no more power or influence than was absolutely necessary to carry on the public business of the country. The hon. member had stated that he would be willing to follow the example of Upper Canada, and abolish the Legislative Council altogether. It was certainly satisfactory to find that hon. member was at last able to point to the legislation of Canada—that much abused country—as worthy of our imitation. But it should be remembered that Upper Canada was very differently situated to Nova Scotia. That Province had no Local Legislature as we had; but, in addition to this, it should be remembered that it had a very perfect municipal system, under which a large amount of local business was now transacted. It was not desirable in this Province to give a sudden and unnecessary check to existing institutions. We had had for many years a Legislative Council, which had been largely composed of men of influence and position in the country, and it would be unwise to abolish it at one stroke. It was absurd to say that the Upper House would have nothing to do, when whatever business was transacted in the Lower House would have to pass through that branch, in accordance with the principle of our present constitution. But did not the hon. member see that there was an inconsistency in his argument? He had declared that the house ought not to be reduced—and in that case was it advisable to do away with the Legislative Council? The same reason that would exist for keeping the house as it was, would be found in the case of the Legislative Council. The best policy he (Dr. T.) believed, under existing circumstances, was to continue the Legislative Council, though with its number reduced.

The hon. member for East Halifax had at last taken his stand upon *principle*; but he ought to be able to state on what principle he advocated representation by population for the Local Legislature and opposed it for the General Parliament. The hon. gentleman had taken great exception to that principle, and had urged with all the eloquence in his power, that scarcely in any part of the world was such a principle recognized, and certainly not in countries enjoying British institutions.—

That was one of the arguments which the opponents of union pressed on all occasions. Now the gravamen of the hon. member's speech against the Government was that they had not observed the principle of population in the present bill. If he (Dr. T.) remembered aright, the hon. gentleman had been a member of a Government which brought in a representation bill giving Queen's and Shelburne the same number of representatives that Cape Breton and Inverness, with their far larger population, would have. Under such circumstances the hon. member would hardly be compromised in supporting the present measure. It was impossible, under existing circumstances, to carry out the principle of representation by population in all its entirety. It was impossible to cut down the representation of any county to merely a single member. All that could be done was to give such a representation as would be fair to the interests of all sections. The hon. member for East Halifax has also protested against the right of the present Legislature touching the question at all. Gentlemen must begin to feel a great deal of curiosity to know what the hon. member believed was the duty of the present Legislature; it certainly seemed as if he would deny that they had any right or power to do anything at all. The hon. member need not, however, be under any fears as to the effects of the present measure; it would be within the power of the next Legislature to alter its constitution if it should be thought necessary. He (Dr. T.) believed, however, that the people at large would accept the measure as one which deserved their support.

Mr KILLAM hoped the men who might be sent to the General Parliament would not be those who had been instrumental in overturning the constitution of the country. The present bill was but a portion of the scheme which was intended to deprive them of their just rights and privileges. The object now with gentlemen opposite was to crush out Nova Scotia and merge her identity into that of Canada. He trusted, however, that Nova Scotians would triumph over those who were bartering away their rights, and that there would always be a Nova Scotian party to rule in the Legislature henceforth.

Mr. LOCKE said that the people had sent them to the Legislature under a constitution which was now to be legislated away. The Legislature had large powers, but he believed that it exceeded those powers when it changed the constitution under which it was elected without the consent of the people. The people had never elected them for such a purpose. He believed that it would be better to do away with the Legislative Council altogether. In previous years he had moved to abolish the Legislative Council. The business of the city of London was transacted by a single body. The Lunatic Asylum was one of the few important subjects that would come under the purview of the Local Legislature, and it was unnecessary to have too cumbersome a Legislature.

Mr. BLANCHARD was of opinion that if it were possible to do away with existing anomalies in the representation to a larger extent it would be better. In the island of Cape Breton there were two large and two small counties, yet the representation of each would