

enter into some details. After the late election, when the late Government was thrown out, he was called upon in conjunction with the Attorney General (hon. A. J. Smith) to form an Administration. He thought they were then in a position to form a strong and stable Government. When he met the Attorney General, he (Attorney General) proposed that he (Mr. W.) should be Provincial Secretary. He had been Provincial Secretary before, and he said that if they could not get a better man, he was willing to take the office. He asked if he could not have had the office if he had chosen? Differences of opinion arose between them as to the gentlemen who should hold the Departmental Offices. He thought that the Government should have a Solicitor General, that there should be a responsible law officer to whom questions of importance should be referred; but the Attorney General opposed any appointment. (Attorney General here objected to Mr. Wilmot entering into these details.) He was charged with falsehood, and further charged with being bought in Canada, and he was bound to defend his own character. (Mr. Wilmot then quoted from his letter of resignation, Jan. 4, in which he expressed an opinion in favor of the principle of Union, and the Government's reply thereto.) When those gentlemen that signed that memorandum stated, "that they were not aware that he was in favor of Union up to the time of his mission to Canada," they stated that was untrue. They knew the Government referred to his opinion in Council when they went on to state, "what induced a change of his mind while there, the Council have no means of knowing." What induced him? It was not office that induced him; he could have taken the Secretaryship if he had chosen. That was one of the best offices in the country. The leader of the Government said, he (Mr. W.) had no right to expose matters in Council, but hoped, when he was charged with falsehood and with being bought, he had a right.

ATTORNEY GENERAL thought that he (Mr. W.) had a right to explain all matters that touched on his resignation; but what took place in Council was as binding upon him as himself (Att'y Gen.) They were both called upon to form the Government. They had worked together for months, and he was now as much bound to preserve silence as to what took place in the Government as any member of it.

MR. FISHER—If his conduct was impugned, had he not a right to explain? Most certainly he had.

MR. WILMOT proceeded to quote from his letter of resignation, February 21st, concerning the differences between himself and the leader of the Government as to the composition of the Council at its formation. He could have taken the Provincial Secretaryship if he had chosen.

MR. WETMORE.—Why did he not take it?

MR. WILMOT.—Because he was not disposed to be a mere jack in the box, to move as the strings were pulled. When he saw the course the leader was pursuing, he came to the conclusion that the Government would not last long, and he would tell him (Att'y Gen.) to-day, if he opened up a constituency in St. John he could not carry his man. Such was the difference of opinion on the first formation, that he came to the conclusion not to

go into the Government at all, and returned home, when a messenger came to him in his house at Belmont, summoning him to Saint John. It was then that the agreement was made that he should return at the close of the session, and take the Audit Office. After having been so long in different Governments as Provincial Secretary and Surveyor General, he thought, if a death vacancy occurred in the Audit Office, he had as much right to it as any other man. After it was agreed that he should have the Audit Office, a resolution was moved in the House last Session to reduce the salary, and it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Executive Council to decide. After that, Mr. McClennan, a member of the Opposition, moved that the salary should be reduced from £900 to £100, and then the leader of the Government got up and said the House had a right to fix the salary. When he saw the leader of the Government take that course, and vote for the reduction of the salary after the question had, by previous resolution, been referred to the Executive Council, he was very much astonished.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Did he not, in conversation with him (Mr. W.) about the Audit Office, say that he thought the salary of £900 was too high, and that £400 was sufficient, that it was competent for the House to fix the amount.

MR. WILMOT had no doubt about the right of the House to fix the salary, but what he objected to was that the leader of the Government should, after the resolution was passed referring the matter to the Executive Council, have taken the course he did. If the leader of the Government chose to arrogate to himself the whole Government, he was not disposed to submit.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. He had put a plain question to him (Mr. W.)—did he not tell him that the salary was too much.

MR. WILMOT. The question ought to have been referred to the Executive Council. That was not the only cause of his dissatisfaction with the leader of the Government. What had caused his friend Mr. Anglin to resign but the fact that the Attorney General took upon himself the authority of the whole Government and the Lieutenant Governor when he signed the agreement about Western Extension. He (Mr. W.) did not, under the circumstances, care to take office, as he was not prepared to live under a despotism, and he certainly thought that an act of despotism.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. He thought the Government would see the unfairness of the course the hon. member was taking. He (Mr. W.) was as much responsible for the acts that took place in Council as he (Attorney General) was. He would ask did Mr. Wilmot ever complain in Council that he had acted despotically in this matter.

MR. WILMOT. When the action that led to the resignation of Mr. Anglin took place he was in Canada, but he reserved his right to protest.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. Did he (Mr. W.) protest when he explained the transaction. Did he not approve of the course he (Attorney General) had taken.

MR. WILMOT. He did not approve.

ATTORNEY GENERAL explained that he had written the paper of agreement regarding Western Extension,

knowing the minds of all his colleagues, and it was necessary to do it immediately, as Mr. Parks and Mr. Skinner were obliged to go to Boston.

MR. WILMOT. He was in Canada at the time. When he returned and heard of the transaction, he expressed his opinion to Mr. Anglin, and he then reserved his right to protest against the whole affair.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. Answer this question. Did he (Mr. W.) express to him (Attorney General) when they met, any dissatisfaction?

MR. WILMOT. He expressed his opinion of the matter in Mr. Troop's office, and he certainly did not approve of the action of the leader of the Government.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. Did he (Mr. W.) disapprove of it to him.

MR. WILMOT. He most unquestionably did not approve.

MR. WETMORE. He recollected, when the outrage committed by the Attorney General occurred, meeting Mr. Wilmot, when he spoke in terms of entire disapprobation of the conduct of the Attorney General in taking charge of the country.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. He wanted to know when he told Mr. Wilmot the circumstances under which he gave the paper to Mr. Skinner if he did not approve of it.

MR. WILMOT. Certainly not.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. Did he disapprove of it.

MR. WILMOT was certainly not in the habit of approving of what he did not know. The leader of the Government and himself, in fact, never could agree. He never could even get a local matter passed through Council without a fight, and he now felt perfectly satisfied to be out of the Government. Mr. Wilmot proceeded to speak of the Union of the Colonies. In Canada he had expressed his opinion that some Union must take place. He saw many reasons that made him come to that conclusion. He saw the United States were determined to abolish the Reciprocity Treaty, and that there would be an opportunity of opening up a large trade between the Provinces. He also saw that in consequence of the unsettled condition of the United States, and the high taxation there, the Maritime Provinces would be a better field for emigration, and they would have the advantage in the shipping trade. His view at first was that the Lower Provinces had nothing to send to Canada; but now, that they had a right to make treaties with other British Colonies and with foreign nations, a large and profitable trade would spring up.

Mr. Wilmot proceeded to say that the Government were now a Confederate Government. Their conversion had been very sudden. It had taken place between the 19th of February, when his resignation was accepted, and the 8th of March, when the House opened. In his last conversation with the leader of the Government, that gentleman said, rather than consent to the Quebec Scheme, he was determined to go down with the ship. He could not understand what influences had been at work to bring about so sudden a change of opinion.

MR. McMILLAN.—What ship did he mean? The Anti ship?

MR. WILMOT.—Yes. He would be the leader of the Government prepared to go against representative institutions.