

assistance to the furtherance of a bill having in view the perfection of the Local Constitution of this country. It was unnecessary to discuss the features of the measure at this stage, but he would ask whether it was intended to alter the duration of the Local Legislature to five years—the duration of the Federal Parliament under the Act of Union?

Hon. PRO. SEC. replied that no such change was proposed in the bill.

MR. BLANCHARD enquired if district representation was abolished:

Hon. PRO. SEC. replied in the affirmative.

MR. ANNAND stated that in the Confederacy there would be a variety of electoral arrangements. In Canada there would be district representation, whereas, in this province it would be all county representation. Again, whilst the majority of the counties would have three votes, others would have four and five.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said that the present arrangement was as fair as could be devised under existing circumstances. It would be in the power of the new house, he added, to make any changes they deemed advisable.

MR. LOCKE thought that perhaps it would be as well to do away with the Legislative Council altogether, in pursuance of the course adopted by Ontario.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said that the hon. member would have an opportunity of dealing with the question when the resolution was introduced. He need hardly say that the Government believed it would be best for the interest of the country to have two houses.

MR. KILLAM thought it questionable policy to reduce the house down to 38 members at the present time. The matter ought to be fully considered. He doubted the propriety of the present house at all touching so important a question: it ought to be left to the new legislature.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said it was certainly surprising to hear any one oppose a reduction of the house, when it was well known that a large portion of the duties it had hitherto discharged would be transferred elsewhere. He remembered reading, many years ago, the debates of the house, and was struck with the tactics pursued by the hon. member for Yarmouth in respect to railways in this country. When he was unable to prevent their construction, he proposed a road vote of an enormous amount, with the object of making the country bankrupt as rapidly as possible, and unable to build railways or anything else. Following a simi-

lar policy he would make Confederation as expensive as possible, since he could not prevent its consummation. He (Mr. Killam) had, obviously, concluded that his whole efforts should be directed towards substantiating the arguments of himself and friends, that we would not have money enough, under Confederation, to carry on the Local Government.

The bill having been read a first time,

Hon. PRO. SEC. then laid on the table a bill in reference to the departmental officers and their salaries. It was obvious to the house, he stated, that the same reasons which would require a reduction in the Legislature would exist in respect to the public departments. It was therefore proposed to abolish the office of Financial Secretary, and devolve his duties upon the Provincial Secretary, whose salary would be reduced to £600 a year. The office of Deputy Secretary would also be abolished, but there would be a chief clerk in the office with a salary of \$1200 a year. It was also intended to abolish the office of Solicitor General, whilst the salary of the Attorney General would be reduced to £400 a year. As the larger portion of the duties now devolving on the Board of Works would be transferred to the General Government, it was proposed to abolish that office. In order to provide for the efficient discharge of the public business, it was intended to appoint a Treasurer, with a salary of £500, instead of a Receiver General, and who must have a seat in the Legislature. To this officer will be given a clerk with a salary of \$1000 a year. It was also proposed to have a Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, with a salary of £500 a year, as is now paid to the head of the Mines Department, who will have a Clerk of Works and a Clerk of Mines, each at \$1000 a year. In view of the great importance of this department, its head would be required to have a seat in the Legislature. He had no doubt that the house and country would accept the measure as an evidence of the desire and intention of the Government to make our local constitution under Confederation economical, and at the same time fully equal to all the duties which would have to be performed under it.

The bill having been read a first time the house adjourned.

MONDAY, March 25th.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MR. MILLER introduced a bill to legalize assessment rolls for the County of Richmond