

hames being removed from the revisors list. In regard to the last section of the bill authorising the Volunteers to pass over the Railroad free of expense while on duty, he had no objection to that, but instead of making it a matter of law, he would leave it with the Government, and they could make an order at any time to allow them a free passage. He agreed with the principle, that if the Volunteers are organized as a permanent institution the expense should fall upon the country. He had been rather against those Militia expenses, and would still continue so unless they were necessary for the defence of the country, but if necessary, no man should shrink from contributing according to his means for the support of that institution.

Mr. CONNELL objected to the Bill, and contended that, if the Bill was necessary, it should have been brought in as Government measure. In regard to the railroad, he had always paid his passage, and he did not think the Government had any right to make an order for these volunteers to go over free. The road should be so managed that it could be shown who travelled free; and if there were free passages given it should be stopped at once.

Mr. NEEDHAM differed from his hon. friend in thinking this ought to be a Government measure. The Militia Law was on the Statute Book, and they could do as they liked with it, for all the wisdom of the country is not centred in the Government. They came there to legislate for the whole Province, and they should deal even-handed justice to all. Particular localities should not be taxed for the support of volunteers which were for the benefit of all.

Mr. BAILEY said that if the provisions of this Bill were confined to King's County, he would not oppose it, but he would be very sorry to see it extend to Queen's County, for they are not able to pay so much for defence as this Bill specifies. This Bill exempts the volunteer from three days' labor and six dollars taxes, thus making the community contribute \$7.50 for each volunteer. He believed the volunteer force should be paid out of the general funds of the country.

Some discussion then took place regarding free passages on the railway, and on franking letters, after which progress was reported.

Mr. WILMOT called the attention of the House to a report in the *Evening Globe* of a debate which took place in the House on Friday, in which he was made to say that "he had frequently stated his opinions in favor of Confederation in the abstract, to Judge Allen and others, but never so expressed himself publicly in the Council, although that was the impression he wished to convey." This report, he said, was utterly devoid of truth. What he had endeavored to impress upon this House was, that he had stated in the Council that he was in favor of union, and that Judge Allen had authorized him to say that, he had heard him express himself in favor of union in the abstract.

Mr. CAIE.—As all are expected to speak on this question, I will endeavor to make a few remarks, but I think too much time has already been taken up, and too much money expended on this debate, which had better be expended in opening up roads for the poor back

settler, which the mover of this amendment was seemingly so anxious to save, I shall not take up much time in the few remarks I intend to make.

I am as anxious as any one on the floor of this House that the defence of our country should be put in a most efficient condition, and every means within the power of the Government should be taken to protect the lives and property of the people of this Province, particularly those who live on the frontier or the seaboard. The Government who would not enter into these arrangements, would be unworthy of the people's confidence, and would not receive the support of this House for one day. I have listened with much attention, and with an impartial ear, for I am neither a disappointed office seeker, nor an expectant of any office at the disposal of any new Government. I have listened with a disinterested ear to the charges brought against this Government, and the defence of the Government. Although it is certain they have committed sins of omission, and it may be commission, yet I cannot think we have sufficient grounds to pass a vote of want of confidence in them. It is well known to every member of the House, that the Government only came into power a few hours before the last meeting of the Legislature, and during the whole of that session they worked almost night and day to prepare Bills, which had to be laid before this Assembly, and very shortly after the session was adjourned, the late Attorney General and the President of the Council were deputed to go to England. Shortly after they returned, the then Attorney General was then elevated to the Bench of New Brunswick. Taking these things into consideration, we would not be justified in condemning them for their sin of omission. The one great object with the Opposition now is the overthrow of the present Government—reports are raised, communications to newspapers and telegraphs are sent, not only through New Brunswick but through Canada and the United States, all tending to the one object—the overthrow of this Government. I should like this House to find any truthfulness in many of these reports. The first report represented the Government as afraid to do anything. Then a report was got up about railroads, and it was said by the enemies of the Government that there never would be a rod turned on either side of these railroads by those companies, and that the report that companies were going to build them was only got up to help Mr. Smith in his election. Those contracts were made, and will be laid before the House in due time. Then they say this is a do-nothing Government, for they have not made the first move towards protecting the Province from the Fenians. One of the members from Carleton stated that there was not a gun or pound of powder in the County he represented. The Attorney General says there were five hundred guns and ten thousand rounds of cartridge sent to that very County, and put in the hands of men who knew how to use them, and would use them in time of need, which we should believe, (Mr. Lindsay.—In the absence of my colleague, I will state what I have from good authority, that if the yeomanry were to be called out, they had but three rounds of ammunition to defend their lives with.) I will leave that County and the Province to decide which we are to believe. The next report I shall allude to

is what is called the "land jobbing." Communication after communication, and editorial after editorial were written, month after month, accusing the Government of being the "vilest rascals" that ever lived upon the face of the earth;—that they had against all law and honesty given to Mr. Gibson 15,000 acres of the public lands. For what? The papers said as a reward for the part he took in the last election. I was asked if I would support a Government that had been guilty of such things. I said I would not if they had been guilty of that, but I will not condemn them unheard. What is the truth of those reports? Mr. Gibson told me that he spoke to the head of the late Government to get a quantity of land on the Nashua. He was asked how much he wanted. He replied, 25,000 acres. They said this was too much, and he had better be content with less; and it was agreed that he should apply for 10,000 acres, which they agreed to grant, and the rest would come after. The Hon. John McMillan was surveyor General then, and the order for the survey was made. The deputy surveyed it, and Mr. Gibson paid six or seven hundred dollars for the survey. The late Government was still in power, when he went and asked them what time this land was to be advertised. They told him whenever he pleased. He had not the money at the time, and he wanted to know when it would be advertised, so that he would have the means ready to purchase it, and this was the position in which things stood when the late Government went out. The newspapers said the present Government had given to Mr. Gibson a three years' license, so that he would not be opposed at the sale of this land. This license was given twelve months previous to the present Government's coming into power. Therefore, all that has been said in the newspapers, by the editors and their correspondents, has fallen harmless upon the present Government, but applies to the late Government. I want this particularly understood, because one-half the people of Kent are up in arms about it. There is another report which I want to allude to, and which made my blood boil when I heard it. It was said that all the "Antis" were little better than Fenians or rebels. I was elected an Anti, or, more properly speaking, an opponent of the Quebec Scheme; and, although many of my best friends are Confederates, and there are others whose opinions I value very highly, who have gone through the Province lecturing on Confederation, and telling the people that it would make the country prosper by opening up a market through the length and breadth of the Canadas. Notwithstanding this, I am still opposed to the Quebec Scheme, although my opinion may be but as a drop in the bucket, in comparison with those eloquent gentlemen. I differ from them in respect to the opening up of the Canadas as a market for our productions and manufactures. In place of its opening up Canada as a market for New Brunswick productions, it will open up New Brunswick for Canadian manufactures. This can only be decided by endeavoring to find out whether New Brunswick can under-sell Canada. I might found an argument upon an experience of twenty years, during which I have imported largely of the productions and manufactures of Canada. A few years ago the people of the North Shore were in the