

quire the assistance of the local Legislature, and it would be a great object, in that case, to have the popular branch large and effective. There was not much force in the argument about economy, for the additional number of members might not cost a dollar more, and could not cost more than \$3000. Under Confederation there would still probably be an upper House consisting of eighteen members, appointed by the Crown, to check the lower branch, and, in addition to that, a Lieut.-Governor appointed by the Governor-General, so that there would be every necessity for maintaining the influence of the Assembly. He did not see the slightest necessity for continuing the Legislative Council, when there were so many guards and checks as the Union Bill proposed. Twelve of its members could receive seats in the Senate; the remainder could receive attention from the Government in some other way, and thus a large saving could be effected without curtailing the members of the House. There would be so little left for the Council to do, that its members would probably be soon ashamed to sit in session doing nothing. Upper Canada had resolved to abolish the upper branch, and her course in that respect had met with much commendation. He did not think the Union Bill intended that the existing Legislature should deal with the local constitution, for it said that the local Parliaments should continue until altered under the authority of that Act. This alteration was not being made under the authority of the Act, because the Act had not yet been passed. He was in favor of letting the people decide the question.

Mr. ANNAND said that as only two members of the Government had spoken on the question he presumed that the passage of the bill was a foregone conclusion. He was of opinion that if ever there was a time in the history of this country when the principle of local representation should be recognized, it was when such important powers had been conferred upon the Parliament at Ottawa, and the subjects left at the disposal of our successors were of a strictly local character. That principle was ignored by the bill. He had taken up the list of counties and found that eight of them enjoyed district representation at present, and these counties, besides having the number of members reduced, would be to a great extent disfranchised as far as local representation was concerned. There seemed to him to be no principle running through the bill,—the principle of representation by population or any other principle. The Attorney General in 1859 had introduced a bill to equalize the representation, but what step had he taken now? The present bill elevated all the smaller counties to the level of the larger ones. He had always been and still was in favor of district representation. He did not

oppose the bill from personal interest, but it was a fact that East Halifax would be to a large extent disfranchised, for the vote of its electors would be swamped by the addition of the city and western population. Again, why should the city with its great interests be swayed by the votes of the outlying districts? It was an extraordinary fact that while in New Brunswick the city of St. John's would send a representative to the General Parliament, the city of Halifax had been ignored. How could the members who now found it difficult enough to attend to the local wants of Western Halifax, represent and advocate the claims of the whole county? The bill gave the same representation to Queens, with a population of 9365 people, as to Colchester with 20,000. He contended that the numbers and weight and influence of the house should not be reduced, and concurred in the remark that the time might come when the General Parliament might need the assistance of the Local Legislature. What position would it be in then if it were reduced, to use Mr. Adderley's language, to a mere municipality? He opposed the bill also on the same ground as that which he took in reference to the larger measure, believing that though the Legislature might increase the number of representatives by two or three, that it had no right to make such a fundamental change as the one proposed—to reduce the number of members from 55 to 38—to disfranchise at least one third of the electors, without the sanction of the people. Could not the members who would soon be elected be trusted to deal with this matter? He thought the house should keep the power while it had it, for if the incoming Legislature should attempt to increase the representation, they might find even if the measure was not rejected by the Legislative Council, that it would be voted by the Canadian Government.

Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY said that he was glad to hear the tone in which the hon. member for Yarmouth had approached the question under consideration. No doubt it was the duty of every member to endeavour to make the local constitution as perfect as possible; but there was one remark made by the hon. gentleman which would be very gratifying to the house and country, and that was that he entirely approved of the principle of county representation as regards the General Parliament. The hon. member also intimated that whoever went from this Province to the General Parliament should be animated by one impulse—that whatever might be the local antagonisms that now divided gentlemen, all should go to the General Parliament with the desire of representing the true interests of Nova Scotia. Now he did not see why a different principle of representation should be applied to the Local Legislature. What diversity of class, interest or position would there be to prevent the members of the Local Legislature uniting in the same manner? Education was a subject in which everybody was equally interested. Similiar feelings should prevail in the Local Legislature as should animate the representatives in the General Parliament. We were now assimilating our legislation to the system of our sister Maritime Province, New Brunswick, where, with the exception of the city, county representation was the rule. The present House of Assembly of the neigh-