

a second Ireland, to bring these Provinces into inextricable troubles, do not force Union upon them. I believe the people might be educated to accept a scheme of Union if it was just. I believe, influenced by a desire to meet the wishes of the British government, they are ready to make large sacrifices; but to force the measure upon them without their consent would be a grave and fatal mistake. It would be fatal to the success of that Union which gentlemen are so anxious to bring about. We know how the Irish Union was accomplished, but I trust no such influences will prevail in this country. I can suppose a majority of this House prepared to accept Union, but unless they have the people behind them, any measure they might pass would not be worth the paper on which it was written. You must carry with you the sentiment of the people. Even if you are entirely wrong on the question you should defer to their prejudice and give them time to consider the subject calmly and deliberately, but not to force it upon them at all hazards.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I am curious to know why the hon. member has occupied so much time to-day. Why should he wish to define his position?

Mr. ANNAND.—The hon. member for Inverness made especial reference to me the other day.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—Why could not the hon. gentleman wait until the question came up legitimately? Why all this anxiety on his part? If I know anything about the hon. member his position was defined before, or it remains undefined now. He did not utter a single new idea that I have not seen in his own paper time and again. I cannot understand his course unless he feels that his position is untenable. I will only say at present that it looks to me very much as if the hon. gentleman all along had this object in view: only wait, says he, until three or four of us who have been opposing Union can be convinced by some means or other, then we are all right. That is the substance of the hon. member's remarks. If two or three gentlemen could only be induced to assist the friends of Union, then there will be no difficulty about a reference to the people.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. C. J. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the bill in reference to Church property, but consented to withdraw the motion for the present, at the urgent request of Mr. Archibald, who wished to wait the presence of Mr. Blanchard.

Mr. LOWERY presented a petition in favor of assessment for the support of schools.

Mr. ANNAND presented a petition on the subject of a Way Office.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON brought in a bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Governors of Kings' College, Windsor.

The house then adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 6.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS AND BILLS.

Mr. HERR presented a petition from Chester, requesting that the Court of Sessions remain as at present.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL presented a petition from the Liverpool Bridge Company, in reference to their charter.

Mr. PAXON, as a Militia Officer, introduced a bill to amend the existing Militia Law.

Also a bill to incorporate the trustees of Zion Church, Halifax.

The house then went into Committee on bills, and passed the School Bill.

THE FISHERIES.

Mr. ROSS called attention to the unprotected state of the Fisheries on the east coast of Cape Breton. He said that the extent of the coast was about one hundred miles. On the 20th, of last month, as he had been informed, the fishing-grounds had been visited by American fishermen. He thought that every exertion ought to be made to ensure the protection of these grounds from intrusion.

Hon. PROV. SECY. expressed gratification at having received the information which had been given.

THE EDUCATIONAL BILL.

On the motion for the 3d reading of the bill for the better encouragement of education, Mr. S. CAMPBELL said he felt it his duty to protest against the clause imposing a tax of 30 cents a head on the inhabitants of the various counties. He moved that the bill be re-committed, for the purpose of substituting 20 for 30 cents.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said that the adoption of such a motion would seriously cripple the measure.

Mr. S. McDONNELL seconded Mr. Campbell's motion. He expressed himself in favour of a reduction of the tax, and said that the bill of last year had given general satisfaction, and instead of going further with a policy which had aroused hostility to the cause of Education, he thought a different course should be pursued. This measure had been very ingeniously placed before the house by the Committee, but no attempt should be made to force any obnoxious provisions upon the people. He admitted that the State should take charge of the education of its people so far as to give to every child instruction in reading and writing, but the operation of the law was such as to force a man to give to his neighbour's children a first-class education sufficient to qualify them for any of the learned professions. The deficiency caused by the proposed reduction could be made up by an additional grant from the Treasury.

Mr. JOST expressed himself opposed to the clause. He had not voted against it previously, being under the impression that some modification would be made.

Mr. TOBIN remarked that the deficiency caused by the change proposed would have to be made up by sectional assessment.

Mr. McDONNELL replied that the provincial grant could be increased.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said that the bill had gone