

which the construction of that work will entail, and the paramount necessity at the present exigency of preserving the public credit unimpaired, it is desirable not to enter at present into any new Railway enterprises.

*Therefore Resolved*—That this House is of opinion that beyond the completion of the Pictou Railway, no additional railway liability should be gone on with by the government until the House is enabled, at its next session, to pass an opinion on its necessity."

HON. PROV. SEC. said that he admired the pluck which the leader of the opposition shewed in dancing on nothing after the platform had been taken from under him by the Financial Secretary and Attorney General. The attitude of that gentleman was only suitable for one who had opposed railway construction from the first. The government on this occasion proposed no new policy, but merely asked the House to extend to the amount of £5100 the terms of last year. It was not the first time that the cry "one year more" had been heard. It was raised at the time when our delegates had obtained for us the most favourable terms in connection with our mines and minerals, and if the pressure had then been yielded to a monopoly would still have controlled the resources which now enrich the country. The proposed expenditure for a connection with the European and North American line would be only £53,000, while the former government had passed an act offering £50,000 for our share of the Intercolonial road, an undertaking with infinitely less paying qualities than the other, and that too without giving us a line to the fertile West, or to the neighboring Provinces. He then referred to the arguments advanced by Mr. Killam.

Mr. Archibald's amendment was lost 27 to 19.

*For*—Heffernan, Ross, Killam, Hatfield, Parker, Ray, McLellan, Miller, Robertson, McDonnell, C. J. Campbell, Blackwood, Archibald, Blanchard, Locke, Caldwell, Balcan, Annand.

*Against*—Donkin, Shannon, McFarlane, Fin. Secretary, Bill, Longley, Bill, Atty General E. L. Brown, McKay, More, Juc Campbell, Lawrence, Pryor, Whitman, D. Fraser, Kau'back, Hamilton, Tobin, Jost, Bourinot, J. Fraser, Churchill, LeVesconte, Prov. Secretary, McKinnon, Robicheau.

MR. MILLER then moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this House, it is expedient to define with accuracy the nature and extent of the subvention to be given towards the construction of lines of Railway to New Brunswick and Annapolis, and not leave the same to be gathered from proposals which are capable of misrepresentation, and have been so differently interpreted in the discussion on the resolution before the House.

MR. MILLER explained that the resolution he had read had been handed him by the hon. member for Colchester. He had framed himself one similar to it, with the intention of moving it.

HON. ATTY. GENERAL said that the Government intended bringing in a bill, defining the powers to be given under the original resolution. The present amendment was a direct insult to the Government.

MR. ARCHIBALD said that it was only due to the House that the resolution to be adopted should be definite in its character.

HON. PROV. SEC. said that this resolution was altogether unnecessary, after the explanations that had been given by the Government, that it was intended to submit a bill, distinctly defining the powers that were to be given to them in connection with this question. He challenged the hon. leader of the opposition to produce a precedent where the Government had been treated as on the present occasion.

The amendment was lost by 28 to 18.

*For*—E. Brown, Heffernan, Ross, Hatfield, Parker, Ray, Killam, McLellan, Miller, Robertson, McDonnell, Archibald, S. Campbell, Blackwood, Blanchard, Locke, Annand, Balcan.

*Against*—Pryor, Jno. Campbell, C. J. Campbell, Atty. Gen., McKay, Moore, Shannon, Lawrence, Donkin, Whitman, Longley, D. Fraser, Kau'back, Hamilton, Tobin, Jost, Bourinot, J. Fraser, Churchill, LeVesconte, McFarlane, Hill, Prov. Secretary, McKinnon, King, Robicheau, Caldwell, Fin. Secretary.

The original resolution then passed by a vote of 28 to 18.

The House adjourned at about half-past 12.

#### CLOSE OF CONFEDERATION DEBATE.

HON. PROV. SEC. moved that the adjourned debate on the Union of the Colonies be resumed.

MR. ARCHIBALD said—At this late period of the session, it is impossible to resume the debate on this question without wearing the patience of the House on all sides. The Supreme Court meets here next Tuesday, and the legal gentlemen in this House have necessarily much to occupy their attention. Besides nothing practical can grow out of this discussion. The House are already committed by the resolution of last year to a Union of the Maritime Provinces, and the only difficulty that may prevent gentlemen agreeing to the present resolution is its preamble. I therefore rise to suggest to the Provincial Secretary, whether he would not be willing to withdraw this preamble, which is a matter of no importance.

HON. PROV. SEC.—My colleagues and myself entirely concur in the opinion that it is very desirable that the House should preserve the same attitude it assumed last session in reference to a Union of the Maritime Provinces. I think it is only justice to the delegates from these Provinces to say that it was not their fault that the Conference held under the resolution of last session had not a different result. It is only fair that I should also say that I am now much less sanguine than I was last year of any practical result growing out of this resolution. It is a secret no where, that as far as the Island of Prince Edward is concerned, they have decided to have nothing to do with anybody under any circumstances, and to remain in their present isolated condition. Since I addressed the House on the last occasion I notice that two prominent members of the New Brunswick Government have pledged themselves against a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces. It will be our duty, however, to ascertain the feelings of the Government of that Pro-