

in too many cases they frequent, and keep them twenty-eight days under a strict discipline and subordination, that will result in real good. If the question of the draft is the only difficulty in the way, hon. members need have no fear, for let the camp be stationed here at Fredericton, and give us the \$30,000, and we'll keep it well supplied for years to come.

Mr. LINDSAY.—I am convinced that the draft is the most obnoxious thing that was ever introduced into a nation, and it is never adopted in any form in England, except under the most pressing difficulties.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—Under the old law all the men of the Province between the ages of 18 and 44 were called out for three days drill, whilst now we only ask for a certain number to form a camp of instruction, at a great saving of the time and producing labor of the country.

Hon. Mr. ALLEN.—The drafting of men for the Militia is not now introduced for the first time; it was established in the Bill which passed in 1862. The 16th Section of that Bill contains the same principle as this.

Mr. SUTTON.—If I thought the draft would ever be enforced, and it would be compulsory for men to leave their homes to go to camp, I would vote against it, but as I believe there will be plenty of volunteers I am willing to support this Section.

Hon. Mr. BORSFORD.—Although the principle of drafting was established in 1862 yet it was never enforced, as people came forward voluntarily. My hon. colleague (Mr. Gilbert) although opposed to the draft here, joins the hon. members for Carleton, who were willing enough to take our men and send them off to Canada to fight our battles there under Confederation. He says, things have changed; he too has changed, when he joins those who were desirous to force Confederation upon us. The hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Connell) when asked, What shall we do? says, Do as Canada does. Canada, who has brought down the estimate England held of these Colonies by refusing to establish a system for defence. I think, however, when it is known in England what we are doing here, she will not consider us so disloyal nor so fond of annexation as they would make us out to be.

Mr. McMILLAN.—The Hon. President of the Council says there are secret influences at work against us in Canada and in Nova Scotia. I would ask, is it right for a gentleman holding the high position he does in this Province, to say that his fellow colonists are animated by such unworthy feelings, without producing some proof. The Hon. Surveyor General seems to be willing to shut us up entirely to ourselves. Build a wall round New Brunswick, like that around China; don't break the egg-shell that separates us from the great world; isolate us, cut us off rather from our fellow men. And if an enemy enters Canada at Niagara, don't go the assistance of our fellow colonists, but leave them to do as best they can. I believe that without Confederation we cannot have the defence of Militia in a proper condition. They will be of no actual service till we have them all united under the general direction of one head.

Mr. GILBERT replied to some personal remarks made by Hon. Mr. Borsford, and then

Progress was reported.

The SPEAKER having resumed his seat, the House adjourned to meet on Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

MONDAY, May 22.

On motion of Mr. CONNELL the House went into Committee for the further consideration of "A Bill to authorize the municipality of the County of Carleton to issue debentures for Railway purposes."

Mr. WILLISTON.—Are the members of the County of Carleton unanimous in their desire that the lands of the whole County should be taxed to support the views of the municipality of Carleton? The Bill which passed this House for the purpose of aiding the construction of the St. Stephen Branch Railway authorizes the taxing of all property in a certain district which was to be benefited by the road; but here the whole County will have to be taxed, a large proportion of which will receive no benefit from the Railroad at all.

Mr. NEEHDHAM.—According to the first section of this Bill, the municipality frame a Bill, which they send down to the Government to sanction, and all the Government has to do is to see that it is in accordance with the laws of the Province, thus you give the municipality of Carleton the right to legislate for that County. The Corporation of St. John, with its executive powers and credit, have no such power vested in them; when they want to borrow money the whole thing must be set out in a law, and by that law they must borrow it; but here you authorize the municipality to do the whole legislation, which is to affect the rights of thousands of people; and the Governor in Council must sanction their acts if they are not contrary to this law, or any other law in the Province. This Bill should cover the whole thing. It should show the form of debentures and what security should be given. It involves a large amount of money, and we are going through it with Railroad speed, none of us understanding its importance. This piecemeal legislation is the worst kind we can have. We are giving up our rights as a legislative body and putting it in the hands of a municipality, investing them with a power they ought not to have, and which we have no right to give them. They should have inserted in their Bill all that was required to render it of value, so that it would have protected the rights of all parties, for if we do not secure those rights to the people we depart from the true principles of legislation.

Mr. LINDSAY.—I would be willing to amend it if the President of the Council thinks it necessary, for the people of Carleton are anxious to develop the resources of the country, but are not now asking for anything, but the privilege of asserting themselves for the purpose of carrying on a public work, and I do not think any public rights are invaded by doing so, if we were going to tax the whole country there might be some reason in the arguments of the hon. member for York, and if he would bring in a similar measure for his County, I would encourage it, for I believe we should encourage those who are willing to help themselves.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—If the hon. members for the County of Carleton will take the responsibility of this measure, I will support the Bill, but I object to giving the people the power to legislate on this question, because it is inconsistent with our constitution; reference has been made to the School Law, but that is not a parallel case with this; that merely gives permission to the people to assert their power, but it does not give them the power to legislate. I am not prepared to support any measure that gives the

which entirely ignores the principle of representative Government.

Mr. KEAR.—It appears to be the impression of the hon. member from Carleton that this is a local matter, and no other part of the Province is interested in it. If the hon. member will raise the money in the County of Carleton; if the people of Carleton will agree to tax themselves, and raise the money among themselves, it would be well enough; but under this Bill there is no mention made of where these bonds are to be sold. They may be sold in the English market at fifty per cent discount, and by that means will further depress our Provincial securities, which are now selling at eight per cent discount; therefore, every man in this Province is interested in this matter. I feel satisfied we are entering upon what I consider to be a dangerous principle; that a law can be made by this Legislature, and then rendered nugatory by an assembly of the people. It is not so in the School law to which reference has been made. That law still remains the law of the land; people do not have to pass a vote upon it to say whether it shall be the law of the land or not, but have simply to say in each locality whether they will accept its provisions or not. By adopting the principle contained in this Bill, we are entering upon a course, which, if followed up, will be utterly disastrous. We are in a different position in regard to building railroads from Canada; we have to import from abroad nearly all we require to build them, and by that means are involved in an amount of expenditure which has reduced our revenue very materially; whereas in Canada they have the most of the material in their own Province. It is, therefore, absurd to say this Bill will not affect the welfare of the people of the whole Province, for every pound our debentures are sold below par is a loss to the whole country.

Hon. Mr. HATFIELD.—If we had never constructed a line of Railway in this Province our revenues would have been in a better position than they are at present; but having commenced their construction, they will not yield a revenue until extended. By grants and legislation we have a line of Railway to within sixteen miles of the village of Woodstock, which will be extended upwards, and if there will be any line likely to pay it will be the connection between Woodstock and the St. Andrews Railway. The people of Carleton have just as good right to put their debentures in the market as the people of St. Stephen; but there is a principle involved in this Bill, and I shall vote against it, without the members of the County of Carleton take the responsibility, for they are here as the exponents of public opinion in that County. If they will strike out that section of the Bill which refers it back to the people, I will vote for it.

Mr. HILL.—One objection taken by the hon. member for Northumberland is, that those debentures proposed to be issued by the municipality of Carleton, if floated in the English market, will depress our Provincial debentures. I think this apprehension is most unfounded. If the debentures of Carleton sell at a discount, it is no reason why the Provincial debentures should, any more than the debentures of a city in Massachusetts would affect the bonds of the State. Capitalists in buying those bonds look at the security, and if the municipality of Carleton cannot give good security, they cannot sell those debentures, and in consequence cannot build this road. Reference has