

These proceedings, namely, the passing of the Bill by the Legislature, and the taking of the vote of the people whether or not a Convention shall be convened; the passing of the Bill for the election of the delegates and the other formalities alluded to, occupy some four or five years."

"The sovereign power of a State is derived from the people." But here they take the ground that the General Government is the fountain of all power, and sends out her little streams to the local Legislature, thus reverting the idea of the United States. Now let me show you that they did appeal to the people to ratify what they had done in Convention. "The Convention continued in session four months, and on the 17th day of September, 1787, the following organic instrument was adopted." Then follows the Constitution signed by George Washington—"This Constitution was reported to the Congress; and from that body was sent to the respective States for ratification, in accordance with proceedings of the Convention." The Resolution of Congress passed on the 28th September, 1787, was as follows:

Resolved unanimously—That the Report of the Convention be transmitted to the several Legislatures, in order to be submitted to a Convention of delegates chosen in each State by the people thereof, in conformity to the resolves of the Convention made and provided in that case."

Here the Convention showed proper respect for the rights of the people. I have gone into the subject more than I intended at first. The House will probably vote for the Amendment, taking from us the right of expressing our opinions on the subject of Union. The Resolutions I submitted are surely reasonable. There is one point which I think none can take exception to, and that is that these Lower Provinces shall have at least one member each in the Executive Council of the General Parliament, to secure the rights and interests of their own people for all time to come. This I hold should be put in the Scheme, for in a written Constitution it is necessary that every point should be well defined as the management of affairs will necessarily be in strict accordance with the letter of the Constitution. Canada will form the all-powerful part of the Confederation, and we ask for the appointment of one of our members to the Executive; and let it be as a right, as part of the great Magna Charter, and not be humiliated to ask it as a favour from Upper Canada. I think, too, that the Inter-colonial railway should be *bona fide* commenced before the General Government should have the right to tax us for its construction. No arrangement, I fear, will be made by which they will be able to proceed except by taxing us, unless their hand is stayed. I believe the first Session of the General

Parliament we shall have the Stamp duties fixed upon us. We shall also have a tax put upon newspapers, 12½ cents a pound on tea, a tax on flour, and a heavy export duty on our lumber. Then the only means to take to secure the building of the Inter-colonial railroad is by preventing these burdens being placed upon us till the work is underway. The putting in of this provision will not affect Confederation at all; it will only secure us if it is put in. Mr. Galt expresses the opinion that soon we shall be entirely separated from England. He expects to see us a great nationality on this Continent, friendly to England, but yielding her no allegiance. This I am opposed to. I want to see no separation from the Mother Country. I think the Resolutions I have offered deserve the support of this House. If hon. members are willing to yield up their right of opinion they will of course vote for the Amendment; but if not they must support the Resolutions.

The House then divided on the Amendment. *Ayes*—Hon. Mr. Tilley, Hon. Mr. Fisher, Hon. Mr. Wiliston, Hon. Mr. McClellan, Hon. Mr. McMillan, Hon. Mr. Wilmot, Hon. Mr. Connell, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Perley, Mr. McAdam, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Babbitt, Mr. Ferris, Mr. J. Flewelling, Mr. Grazier, Mr. Wetmore, Mr. Quinton, Mr. DesBrisay, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Beveridge, Mr. Sutton, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Davis, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Hibbard, Mr. Skinner, Mr. Johnson, and Dr. Dow—30.

Nays—Mr. Smith, Mr. Young, Mr. Cate, Mr. Botsford, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Meehan, Mr. McNerny, and Mr. Landry—8.

Messrs. W. P. Flewelling and Hebert were absent.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

MR. SKINNER moved the House into Committee of the Whole on a Bill to incorporate the Shipwrights' Union of the City of Saint John. Mr. DesBrisay in the Chair.

MR. SKINNER said this was a similar Bill to that passed the other day to incorporate the Caulkers' Association. It was merely a Mutual Benefit Society.

The Bill was agreed to.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the House into Committee of the Whole on a Bill further to amend the Law relating to Parish Schools.

Hon. Attorney General explained that this Bill was before the last Session. It merely provides that where a County adopts the assessment principle they shall receive the amount of ten per cent above what is granted to other Parish Schools, which by the old law is confined to Parishes.

Hon. Mr. CONNELL was in favor of the principle of assessment for Schools, but should prefer to have the Bill left over till the next Session of the Legislature.

MR. SMITH was surprised at the Attorney General bringing in this Bill as it was imperfect. It did not provide the regular machinery for carrying out its provisions. No power was given in the School Act to the Sessions to assess for School purposes, and consequently it could not be carried out.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL said the provision requiring the people of a Parish to meet together was applicable under this Bill to a County.

MR. STEVENS thought it would be better for the Attorney General to look into the matter of Education and bring in a Bill that would remedy the evils existing under the present School Law, which has been found to be very ineoperative. The money now paid was flittered away in supporting ten Schools where two are sufficient for the wants of the people. In 1863, he brought in a Bill to remedy the matter, and it was the duty of the Government to take hold of the question and see that the law is carried out. He would ask if the Board of Education had done their duty in limiting the number of Schools to the requirement of a Parish or district? He did not speak against the present Bill, but to draw the attention of the Attorney General to the preparation of a new Bill that will remedy the evils that now exist, for we grant more money for the purposes of Education than any other country in proportion to our population, but we do not get results commensurate with the amount we pay out. His idea was that there should be fewer Schools and they more effective.

MR. HIBBARD thought it would be better to have a general revision of the School Law than to fill up the Statute Book with amendments to the existing law. He thought the present system of inspecting schools very unsatisfactory, inasmuch as they have so much ground to go over that they cannot give more than an hour or two to a school when the work should not be got through within half a day. The law also provides that rate-payers shall be called together in cases of assessment, but who were they? The law does not define it sufficiently. It should say rate-payers on real and personal property. If the law needs amending it would be best to thoroughly revise the existing law.

MR. LEWIS said the present system of inspection was very unsatisfactory. He knew that in his part of the country the Inspector (Mr. Duval) would go to a school and go from it without producing any benefit. The people were crying out all over the country, and he should op-