

they ought to have pursued the manly course taken by Mr. Tilley in the neighbouring Province of New Brunswick. That was the course that the men around these benches should have pursued before pressing forward this measure of Union, contrary to the wishes of the people. He was quite content, however, to know that he had done his duty, and that he had the people at his back. He regretted to see such an attitude assumed by those who professed to represent the people. He felt, however, that remonstrance on this or any other subject was useless, for he and others had to submit to the Government and their majority. He felt an injustice was inflicted upon his country by the bill, but he presumed he was powerless to prevent it. The time would soon come, however, when the people would have an opportunity of expressing their opinions decisively and emphatically.

Mr. ANNAND said that as there was obviously a large majority in favor of the measure, he felt it was useless to divide the House.

The House then adjourned until the next day at 11 o'clock.

SATURDAY, March 30th.

The House met at 11 o'clock.

BILLS.

Mr. PRYOR, Chairman of the Committee on private and local bills reported the bill to incorporate the New Glasgow and Cape Breton Railway Company, the bill to amend the act to incorporate the Intercolonial Coal Mining Company and the bill to change the name of Grand Ruisseau in the County of Richmond to Port Royal. The House then went into Committee on bills and passed these bills.

LOCAL CONSTITUTION.

Mr. ANNAND asked that the bill which had been under consideration yesterday be not passed through Committee until Monday as Mr. McLellan had been called away by illness in his family.

Hon PROV SEC replied that the bills could be passed through Committee but would not be brought up for a third reading before Monday.

The bill relating to the representation was then taken up.

Mr S CAMPBELL said he wished to address himself simply to one point: the propriety of the house at such a time dealing with a vital part of the constitution. The government insisted on a severe construction of constitutional authority and sought to effect a most important change without the people having had an opportunity of expressing their opinions upon it. He proposed, as an amendment, that the operation of the bill be deferred until after the ensuing election. At the concluding session of the previous parliament such an addition had been made to the franchise bill then brought forward, and he thought the proposition in this case well worthy of consideration. He could without difficulty conceive a reason why the Metropolitan County of Halifax should be treated as it had been by the government. In the Imperial Act justice had not been done to the city, and he therefore was not opposed to giving the county an additional member, but he

contended that the rural districts should be separately represented. He could not imagine, however, why Pictou should receive an extra member, population had been lost sight of in framing the bill and that therefore could not be the principle. If two members were considered sufficient for Cape Breton County, on what ground could an additional representation for Pictou be defended? He believed that the proposition for delay was one that no member could fairly take exception to.

Hon PROV SEC was glad to find that in view of his responsible position the hon member who had just spoken had risen superior to local and sectional feelings, as was testified by his ignoring the fact that the bill would give large additional privileges to his own constituents. When that member went on to advocate the claims of Halifax to exercise greater weight in the Legislature, he had given an additional evidence of the strictly provincial character which his views might hereafter be expected to assume. It had been shown that the bill divided the Province into two halves—East and West—Halifax lying between, and the hon member, representing the Eastern constituency, had expressed the fear that the Eastern half would have too much weight. He could understand the member for Yarmouth, Mr Killam, who was entirely opposed to the change, but he could not understand why Mr Campbell, having assented to the principle, should oppose the change at the only time when it could be made. It would puzzle that gentleman to shew any statesman in the world who ever said that the first session of a new Parliament, and not the last session of an old one, was the time for remodeling the representation—on the contrary, it had been held that a material change in that respect was equivalent to the declaration that the people were not properly represented, and that a dissolution must follow. That gentleman had supported a Government which introduced a bill to change the representation at the last session of an Assembly, because that was the only time when it could appropriately be done.

Mr ANNAND said he was amused at the assertion that the last session was the time for such a change. Was it not a fact that the House was sitting under a franchise which did not then exist? He contended that when the new Legislature was elected it should not be obliged to stultify the action of the House in case it wished to review the policy of representation. Mr Campbell had been taunted with rising superior to local prejudices—it was to be hoped he always would.—Should the voice of Nova Scotia be stifled because Guysboro' would stand in a better position than heretofore? He contended that between East and West there should be no jealousy—the counties had one common interest. As to economy, his plan would be to abolish the Legislative Council, and keep the popular branch as efficient as possible. If Responsible Government was to be carried on at all there should be no diminution. The bill would throw the representation into a very extraordinary state: Halifax, at last census, had 49,000 inhabitants, and was to have 3 members or one for every 16,000, Queen's would have