

Tuesday, April 21st.

*Afternoon Session.*

DESPATCHES.

On motion of Hon. Leader of the Government, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the consideration of certain despatches.

Mr. Reilly in the chair.

The Despatch was read relating to the Confederating of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—This Despatch, Mr. Chairman, merely informs us of the fact that the provinces mentioned in it have been confederated. We might remark, however, that if we take notice of the working of the Dominion, which has lately been formed, we will find that not only has it lost one of its most talented statesmen as we have heard within the last few days, but that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction existing among its people. In fact a delegation has been sent to England from one of the confederated provinces, (Nova Scotia) for the purpose of trying to get a repeal of the Act which unites that province with Canada. In the province of New Brunswick also, if we are to believe what appears in the newspapers, there is a great deal of dissatisfaction. Although we did not join the Union, we may be sorry that those who have given the Government of the New Dominion a fair trial. As to whether Nova Scotia will succeed in her attempt, to withdraw from the Dominion or not, is a subject upon which I will not venture an opinion.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Mr. Chairman, when in London last year I saw a great placard posted up containing the proclamation which is in that despatch, and I was not sorry to find that our little Island was not included in it. With the doubts we had on the subject, I think it was well to wait and ascertain how the system would work. And now we see that the people of one of the most important parts of that Dominion are very dis-