

in England, so that we have not a single member in the Government at present. (Mr. Smith.—No injustice will be done to the North.) I am glad to hear it, but I am very sceptical about it. I have been for many years in opposition to the Government, but I have always been ready to give them a hearty support in any measure which I believed to be right. They have not done right in leaving the important office of Auditor General unfilled. The accounts may have been well audited, the gentleman who occupies the office may have discharged his duty faithfully, but I do not think, as the matter stands, he can make such a report of the accounts as ought to have the entire confidence of the country. He is not furnished with the materials to examine the accounts in such a way as ought to be done. Then again, we have reason to find fault with the Government for incurring the heavy expense of a delegation to England on a useless mission. A despatch was written the 12th of April last, to be laid before this House. That despatch must have been received at the opening of the Legislature, and any person looking at it would say, that anything we could do by delegation could be effected by a despatch of the Government. They certainly have not done anything to change the views of the British Government on confederation. In order to carry out that delegation, the country had to give up the services of the Attorney General for three months, and incur an expense of £700, which is a large sum of money to throw away without receiving an equivalent. I spoke and voted against that delegation, and I disapprove of it yet. There is a matter connected with our debentures, coupons, and other matters lying in various hands. He might have made some arrangements about having them taken up and destroyed, but I fear it was not done. There are £17,000 of our debentures which fall due the 1st April, and we have debentures lying in St. John which are not accessible to the public. A large amount of money will be required which will have to be paid in new debentures, and those new debentures should be sold in this country so as to save so much interest to the country.

MR. GILMOR.—Is my hon. friend not aware that there are £16,000 in debentures in the treasury at St. John which have been there four weeks.

MR. KERR.—I am aware of that fact. I took down money to purchase some of those debentures, and was told no person was authorized to sell them.

MR. GILMOR.—Those debentures are kept in the treasury for the purpose of exchanging them for those that fall due in May. We had no occasion to raise money upon them. If our debentures were absorbed in New Brunswick we should not have to draw £5,000 sterling to pay the interest on our railway. I am afraid about Canada being in debt, are we not £5,000,000 in debt, and only a little piece of railroad to show for it. (Mr. Newburn.—Who built it.) A larger amount of money was expended in building it than it was worth, and it has cost more than the Province had there a bill of £75,000 currency annually, which, at the rate we are bearing, gives us a debt for which we have to pay £88,000 per annum. This is a heavy charge for the few public

works we have. We are owing that money, and when that money is falling due we should look ahead and see where the means are to come from to pay it. There should be no default in paying the interest in England, for if they lose confidence in us, our debentures will go down in the British market. I desire to see these debentures placed where the people can get them, if that can be done without any risk of the public funds of the country. We hear a great deal said about the theory of union. I do not know what this theory is. There was a delegation appointed last session to effect a union of the Maritime Provinces. I do not know whether it was done to keep up some sort of appearance, or whether there was any intention to effect such a union. I have never heard of anything being done.

HON. MR. SMITH.—It was distinctly understood that we were requested to do it by Nova Scotia.

MR. KERR.—That may be the case, but it stands recorded upon the Journals of our House. We have no assurance that they intend to bring down any scheme of union, and as I believe Confederation must ultimately be carried, I intend to give my assistance to any improvement upon the Quebec Scheme; but at the same time I believe the Quebec Scheme as it is, is better for us than to be alone.

MR. CORAM.—I am here to-day an independent representative of the City and County of St. John. I have no other objects in supporting any Government than the best interests of my country. What is the indictment brought against this Government? A great many arguments have been brought forward by members on both sides, and a great many charges made in a rambling way, without proving one single point. I cannot see why the present Government cannot carry on the business of the country as well as a new Government could. If I have not been misinformed, the mover of the Amendment has always been finding fault and bringing a vote of want of confidence against every Government of which he is not a member himself. This being the case, I cannot have the confidence in that leader that some other gentlemen have. I was elected to oppose the Quebec Scheme, and I am in the confidence of those who sent me here. If I change my views, it is my duty to tender my resignation; until I do that, I will carry out the views of those who sent me here by supporting the present Government. When we look at the indictment and lift the veil, we see nothing but Confederation under it, and the object is to carry out the Quebec Scheme as it was, is, and shall be. We should not go into Confederation until the route of the Intercolonial Railroad is settled and put under seal, so that it cannot be altered. A reason given why we should go into Confederation is that we would be better protected; we would have soldiers sent down to guard us against our enemies. I do not believe there would be one man sent down from Canada to defend any part of New Brunswick. We going into Confederation make us more loyal? No, I am just as loyal as ever I shall be, for I am prepared to lay my life down to defend our flag and our liberties, and the liberties of New England. I do not believe that the Government will do any more for us than to live in friendship and love, instead of hatred and strife. It is our duty to

protect all men when we can, whether they are Protestants or Catholics, but if they come against the laws of my country, I will put them down. A charge brought against the Government is the great expense of the delegation going to England. At the last sitting of the Legislature, a majority of the House decided to send a delegation to England, and they went according to the wishes of the House and the people. Why should we condemn the Government, before the correspondence between the Government and the Mother Country is laid before the House? They have not brought any evidence to prove they have done wrong in this particular. When the documents are produced, if they have not done according to the wishes of the people, I will vote against them. I will try them before condemning them. I like to see fair play and justice dealt out to every man.

With regard to railroads, that is a question with which I will deal when it comes before the House in proper shape. When they are called upon for the agreement in regard to Western Extension, then I will do my best to sustain them or go against them as I think proper. Another complaint was, why was not the House called together sooner? Where is the damage done? We know the Attorney General was at Washington negotiating regarding the Reciprocity Treaty, and we should not condemn him before he brings his documents before the House, so that we can see whether he has carried out the trust reposed in him. On these grounds I think the indictments are wrong, therefore I cannot condemn the Government without a fair trial.

MR. SCOVILL.—As we are progressing so slow in this debate, I will occupy but little time. I am not in the habit of making long speeches to place myself before my constituents. When this House was first formed, the people were called upon to decide one of the greatest questions that ever came before them. They gave their decision, and we were returned by a two-thirds majority, to oppose this Quebec Scheme, which was a scheme propounded by the wise men of the different Provinces, and laid before the people of this Province for them to accept. When the House was dissolved, I was determined not to offer as a candidate on that occasion, but from the pressure of circumstances, I came to the conclusion that, as this question was agitating the minds of the people, and they having elected me three times before, I would come forward and advocate my principles, and they returned me. My hon. friend (Mr. Kerr) says if this Government was turned out, the prospects of Confederation would be almost certain. He has good reason for saying so, and I look upon him with honor, as carrying out the principles advocated by him on the hustings. When I came forward to advocate my principles, I declared myself an anti-Confederate, and my reason for going against this amendment is, to maintain those persons in power who have taken the charge of the Province. As we are trying to induce men to lay down and up a new scheme of Confederation, so that I would be in favor of the Quebec Scheme, I would not enter this House, for I would think it my duty to resign my seat. Regarding these hearty men, who came in on the same ticket as I did, and who are now in power, they tell them they are now in power, and they will have Confederation though