

possession when the House was in Session last season; but it did not suit their purpose to communicate it to them, because it indicated to them the question of the Imperial Government upon the question of Confederation; but his hon. friends saw comfort and pleasure in the distance, and it would not do to let the House of Assembly know that the Imperial Government had made up their minds upon this point. When these delegations went to England on public business for the benefit of the country he was willing to pay them for it; but if they went for a useless purpose, and spent hundreds of pounds, he would begin to ask himself, whether or not that money would not be more wisely expended in making a road or building a bridge in some back part of his Country. It is said they went for the purpose of carrying on other negotiations, but the other negotiations are not authorised in the resolution. They went to effect a Union of the Maritime Provinces, so far as we can judge from Mr. Cardwell's reply; that seemed to be the principal part of their mission, and it was an extraordinary thing that they also received this despatch through Canada. He would ask if secrecy was to be the rule of the Government. He complained of them because they had not taken precautionary measures in regard to the defence of this country. There is a great deal of feeling along the line in regard to some lawless attempts from armed desperados from the United States. It has been the fear of this country for several years that upon the close of the American war there would be vast numbers of disbanded soldiers who, having no other business to do, would collect in crowds around towns and cities, and make an attack upon this country. Large numbers of these returned soldiers are entirely out of employment, and being men of no principle or character, have joined an organization formed for the purpose of making an attack upon these Provinces, which has created a great alarm along the frontier. He had been one of those who had thought a large military expenditure unnecessary, for he thought it was best to expend the money in making the country fit to live in; but now things have changed, and what they had feared for the last few years was coming upon them, and he had changed his opinion in regard to this matter. We know that a vast conspiracy is carried on by lawless desperados, who care not for Jew or Gentile, and we must be prepared to meet them. Have the Government of the country given any assurance that they are making any preparation to meet the danger. The House authorized the expenditure of \$30,000 for a Camp of Instruction. Why not have that Camp meet in the month of March, the time of trouble. He had not been much alarmed, but if he had a wife and children on the border, he would soon decamp (laughter); he would take his wife and children to a place of safety, and then return and defend his property. They should have the men drilled along the borders. They need not tell him they were going to try and get troops from the British Government. He knew the military authorities were indisposed to send troops along the line, because they would desert. The wording of his resolution had already started the Sergeants, and the House would start the Generals bye and bye.—"They should have selected the month of

March for their Camp of Instruction, for when that month was over, the time of danger would be passed away. There should be no delay in this matter. In Canada they are sending the military and troops in all directions, and making great preparation to meet the danger. We, on the contrary, are perfectly passive, while our country is in a state of growing, continuous, and increasing excitement. In protecting themselves, the people of this country would not stand about pounds, shillings, and pence. In 1812, our fathers went through the wilderness to Canada. That was the spirit of 1783, and the same spirit animates the people of this country now, to defend their firesides from lawless aggression. The Government has done nothing for them. The whole nature of the Government appears to have been forgotten. They have been scattered to the four winds of Heaven: one off at Washington, one one place, and one another, and when at last met together, they had to send to St. John to swear a member in to make a quorum. It appears that the defence of the country is considered a small business in comparison with sustaining themselves in office for a short time. An idea was put forward by his hon. friend, regarding this military business, that the Government were not responsible for the acts of the Commander-in-Chief, because he had certain powers for which he alone was responsible. He (Mr. Fisher) said, that, for every act of the Commander-in-Chief in military matters, the Executive Council were responsible. The Constitution did not permit them to enquire into his conduct at all, for he is responsible to the Queen alone; but for every act, military or civil, the Government was responsible to them. He meant this, because he had seen in the papers an account of a speech, made by the Attorney General, in which it was stated that the Commander-in-Chief was alone responsible in military matters. Three or four years ago this was a matter of small importance, but when they came to expend \$30,000 a-year for this purpose it was a more serious matter. He should be sorry to have the military officers appointed from one party or the other; but there could be no doubt that, for every one appointed, the Council were as responsible for, as for any other acts of the Government. He then stated, and read some extracts to prove, that this question was settled in England sixty years ago, which was the last time any controversy arose in regard to difficulties with the army.

The next point he would refer to was the appointment of Judges. The Government have induced men to look to politics in regard to appointments on the Bench. In appointing the Chief Justice, they had one plain course to adopt to avoid this danger: either to appoint the Attorney General, or some other gentleman outside the Bench, or appoint the oldest Judge on the Bench. They had written a letter in one of the newspapers written by Mr. Boyd, in which it is stated that he heard, one year before, that upon an appointment having to be made, Judge Ritchie was to have the office. This appointment had lessened his confidence and lessened the confidence of the people of the country in the administration of justice. He had been told that the reason Judge Wilmut was not appointed, was because he had voted for him, and

made two speeches in favor of Confederation to Grand Jurors. It is the commonest thing in the world for Judges in England to refer to matters of that kind—to great even a that are transparent. He (Mr. Fisher) then, theologized Judge Wilmut very highly, stating that he had been his schoolmate, and read out of the same book; that they had run an election together, and he had assisted in advocating the interests of their common country in getting this country a Constitution. He then referred to the testimony of Judge Parker and the Hon John A. Street in regard to his learning and integrity, and said he believed the bright light of that Judge was shining in all its original lustre, and that he was one of the grand ornaments of the country.

Mr. Fisher then referred to the Speech, and asked what it meant, and whether they were going to improve upon the present Confederation scheme. He believed the most objectionable feature in it was unchangeable—that was representation by population. He was not going to speak upon the question now, but he believed they would have this union yet. Could they wonder that the people here should have been excited when the Governor read that passage. What was the cause? Approbation. (Mr. Anglin—"Good training.") The men were as respectable as the hon. member from St. John. They were some of the first merchants of Fredericton, and farmers from the vicinity. They have acquired a position and property, and loving the Queen as they do, they could not help expressing their feelings when her representative read that a union of the British North American Colonies was an object much to be desired.

The debate was adjourned until 2 P.M., and the House was adjourned to meet again at 10 A.M., to-morrow.

T. F. D.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 13.

Mr. WETMORE brought in a Bill to amend the law of evidence; also, a Bill to authorize the Judges of the Supreme Court to provide for trials in which the City of St. John is interested; also, Bill relating to debtors confined in jail, or on the limits.

Mr. FISHER brought in a Bill to amend the law relating to Parish Schools; also, a Bill further to amend the law.

Mr. WILLISTON brought in a Bill relating to the partition of lands.

Mr. CAIE submitted the following Report:—

The Select Committee appointed to take into consideration the petition of William End against the return of Francis Meahan and Robert Young, as members for the County of Gloucester, having met, pursuant to adjournment, on Monday, the twelfth day of March inst., did adjourn until this morning (the said William End not having appeared to prosecute his complaint) to allow the said William End either to appear, or show cause why he did not. The said Committee having met pursuant to adjournment, and the said William End not appearing, and giving no notice either to the Chairman, or any member of the said Committee, of his intention to appear, and the said Committee having considered the allegations in the said petition, and having heard witnesses on behalf of the said William End, are of opinion, and do