



HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I shall press my motion. It does seem to me unfortunate that extraneous matter is dragged into every subject which comes before us, whatever the matter under discussion may be, whether it is the Land Question, the Barracks or the Fisheries, other questions are mixed up with it. The subject under consideration might be crowded into a nut shell, and therefore there was no necessity for the Attorney General to drag in the building of the Barracks or any other matter. I am prepared to justify the expenditure of the £12,000 said out by the late Government in the erection of these buildings. We are to look upon that sum as so much money expended to maintain British law and order, and to put down an association which, if it had not been checked in time, would have ended in open rebellion. The result of this state of things would be, that we would be placed where the people of this Colony do not wish to be—in the great Confederation. I move that the resolution be amended by striking out the words "and contingent expenses," because there is no necessity to pay a person one hundred pounds per year to take care of these Barracks. When the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) said that the troops were brought here for the purpose of injuring the character of the people of this country, and thereby be the means of getting the Colony forced into Confederation, he stated what was politically untrue. He knows very well that there were gentlemen in the late Executive Council who were as much opposed to Confederation as he himself was, and who had a great deal more firmness than he has. Among those hon. members of that Council there was Mr. Henderson—there is not much of the Confederate in him. There was also another strong anti-Confederate, who is now in his grave, and who had more of the blood of a true patriot in his little finger than the hon. member for Belfast has in his whole body—I refer to the late James McLaren. This hon. gentleman was looked upon with confidence from one end of Queen's County to the other. He was respected by both Liberals and Conservatives, by Catholics and Protestants; in fact he was like Christ's wife, above suspicion. He was no Confederate, Mr. Speaker. Will this hon. member say that John Longworth is a Confederate? No, Sir. He was the father of those strong resolutions which were brought into this House against Confederation, and much as I differ with him on that question, I believe him to be perfectly honest in his intentions. If

either of those gentlemen had had a shadow of a doubt as to the intentions of their party in bringing the troops to this Colony they would have vacated their seats in the late Executive Council. It is known that if that Council had opposed the sailing of the troops the Administrator of the Government, for the time being, would have undertaken to do so, to maintain order and to uphold British law in the Colony. I too, have always said that I would never by any means, by any back-stair work put Prince Edward Island into Confederation unless the majority of the people were in its favor. I would rather cut off my right hand than be guilty of such under-hand work as to legislate against the wishes of the people; but, I presume, the hon. member for Belfast measures my corn by his own bushel. We, the members of the late Government wished to maintain law and order, and there was no other alternative, but to call in the troops. If the hon. member was opposed to Confederation, he has proved recreant to his principles, he has proved to be a traitor to his country. The late Government lost grounds at the late elections, not on the Confederation question, but because they opposed the Tenant League. What did the present Government do whenever they obtained the reins of power? They appointed the late Editor of the *Examiner* to the highest office in the gift of the Colony, although that gentleman had denounced the Tenant League and was strongly in favor of Confederation. We know, Sir, that the Liberal Party promised the people to appoint no Confederate to office, and that they were also pledged against Confederation; but a change came over the spirit of their dreams, and they gave the Queen's Printerish to a strong Confederate. The hon. Attorney General, who is the real Leader of the Government, pleads guilty to the soft impeachment that the retaining of this Mr. Hayden in office as Keeper of the Barracks, is a political job. I give the hon. member credit for being a moral man and well read in sacred scriptures, but because his brother is wrong should he go wrong also? What has the building of the Barracks to do with paying a man one hundred pounds per year to take care of these buildings? If the Barracks were left in a dirty state the Government could have remedied the matter by reporting to General Doyle who would very soon have caused the detachment to pay expenses because there is nothing the military are so particular about as cleanliness. The officers in command will not allow a nail to be driven without cause, and they cause all damages to be repaired. But as these Barracks were a necessity, they should not go to destruction for want of proper care, they should be given in charge of the Drill Sergeants, who are best qualified for the offices of keepers. Have the Government got a bond from Mr. Hayden for the value of these buildings? If they are burned down when he is out fishing or when he is about his private business, is he bound to pay the Government £12,000? I very much doubt that any man would be fool enough to join him in giving that bond. The Government would be just as well secured in giving the property in care of one of the Drill Sergeants who would take just as much or more care of it than Mr. Hayden, but now comes in the extraordinary statement of the hon. member for Belfast, that if the Government had appointed a military man, they would have to pay a Corporal's guard to relieve him. Well, that is paying a poor compliment to those who have been added. If his theory is sound we will not want any more sergeants or red-coats anywhere, but