

but those who lived on the borders would know that what he said was true. He was not afraid that an invasion would be made on the frontier by any very large number of these Fenians, but small parties of them might make a dash and rob and slaughter. This was a very serious matter, and he was not satisfied with what the Attorney General had said.

THE SPEAKER.—This discussion was irregular—there was nothing before the House.

MR. CONNELL.—The member of St. John (Mr. Wilmon) had asked the Attorney General if it was true that troops had been sent to Campbell, and they were discussing that question.

MR. GILBERT said he would move the adjournment of the House. He did this in order to give himself an opportunity of making a few observations on this question.

MR. NEEDHAM rose to order. The question of adjournment could not be debated.

MR. GILBERT.—He could show precedent.

THE SPEAKER.—That question was never debated.

MR. GILBERT.—Then our practice was not in accordance with British Parliamentary practice. He had a right to show that he was perfectly in order.

THE SPEAKER maintained that Mr. Gilbert was out of order, and the motion of adjournment was carried, and the House accordingly was adjourned until Monday, at 10 o'clock.

A. A.

MONDAY, MARCH 12th.

After the Minutes were read, the Rules of the House were suspended in order to allow Mr. L. P. W. Desbrisay to bring in a Bill to place certain roads in the County of Kent on the list of Great Roads in this Province.

MR. GILBERT moved that — copies of a Bill to make better provision for the secrecy of the Ballot, &c., be printed.

HON. MR. GILLMOR said every hon. member could have access to the Bill without going to the expense of printing it. They should not go on increasing their expenses when they could avoid it.

MR. GILBERT replied that the proper exercise of the franchise was of great importance to the welfare of this Province; that the printing would not cost much, as it was not a long Bill, but it was one that required to be looked at frequently and attentively, in order that hon. members might become acquainted with its merits.

MR. HILL said that every unnecessary expense should be avoided. The Bill would be upon the files of the House where it could be examined by every hon. member; and the clear and lucid explanation, which would be given by the hon. member who introduced it, would enable them to understand its merits. The House should not order any Bill to be printed unless it was absolutely necessary—unless it was a Bill of great importance and had many provisions which required to be considered section by section.

This resolution was carried and one hundred copies ordered to be printed.

COL. BOYD, by leave, brought in "A Bill to incorporate the St. Andrew's

Friendly Society" and a petition for the same.

MR. OTTY brought in "A Bill to alter the Polling place in the Parish of Hampton," and a petition for the same.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

COL. BOYD moved the order of the day, viz.:—The consideration of the "Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech," and said that he fully endorsed every word and paragraph in it, for it suited his views exactly. He could not see anything to amend in it. A vote of want of confidence was another matter; and whether the hon. member who intends moving this Amendment will benefit the country by so doing, time alone will tell. For his part, he thought this Government, which they said they had no confidence in, had stood remarkably well, considering the opposition it had met with.

MR. FISHER would like the hon. member to give some exposition of the last paragraph but one, for he would like to understand what was the design of that paragraph.

COL. BOYD said, he believed the Government meant by this paragraph:—" * * * but in any scheme for a Union of the British North American Colonies which may be proposed, it is, in the opinion of this House, absolutely essential that full protection should be afforded to the rights and interests of the people of this Province; and no measure which fails to obtain these objects should be adopted." That they have no objection to go into union with the other Provinces, provided good and full protection is afforded to our rights and interests, but they did not intend to swallow Confederation as concocted in Canada. They knew how well they were off, but he was not going to say they could not do better. They were perfectly willing to go into Confederation upon fair and equitable terms.

His Honor, **THE SPEAKER**, then read the Address by paragraph. Upon the reading of the 4th paragraph, which is as follows:—

4. We learn with feelings of deep indignation the existence of a conspiracy, having for its avowed object the dismemberment of the British Empire. We would hope that no attack will be made upon any portion of Her Majesty's North American Dominions; but in that event, we rejoice in being able to assure Your Excellency that but one sentiment of loyalty animates the whole people of this Province; and its inhabitants of every race, creed, and station, are alike ready to repel lawless aggression and to punish provoked hostility; and Your Excellency can confidently rely upon our cordial co-operation and support in the adoption of any measures of a precautionary character, that may be necessary to avert a calamity so serious as that of the occurrence of an armed conflict within our borders.

MR. FISHER moved the following Amendment, viz.:—"To strike out all that part of the said 4th paragraph from the words "and Your Excellency," &c., to the end inclusive, and insert as follows:

"And Your Excellency may rely with confidence upon our cordial co-operation and support in the adoption of such measures as may be deemed necessary

for the protection of the country. But we respectfully state to Your Excellency that your constitutional advisers, by their general conduct, are not entitled to our confidence."

In moving this Amendment, **MR. FISHER** said that some of his friends thought that the Amendment, of which he had given notice on Saturday, was a reflection upon the United States; therefore, he had altered it by striking out the last section.

HON. MR. SMITH objected to any alteration being made to any Amendment of which previous notice had been given.

MR. FISHER said, no power in the world could prevent him putting forward any proposition he pleased, if it was seconded. This Amendment contains all the elements of the other, but in order to meet any captious objections, he had struck out a portion of it, although he intended to make that part of his argument. He was not bound to give notice at all, though courtesy required him to do so. It was there to express his opinion, and it was the peculiar beauty of their institutions that they could discuss these questions; and when they were over, whatever the result might be, it would not make them enemies to each other, for they were all there to advance the interests of their common country. He complained of the Government that they had not called the House together sooner, for it was unfair to the representatives of the people of this country, who will, after four or five weeks Session, require to go to their business occupations, especially those in different parts of the country. His friends in the Government knew it well. This was a deliberative body, and if the ordinary business of the country required sixty or seventy days to perform it, how can they get through the business of the Session in four or five weeks, when they have a new Confederation scheme foreshadowed in the Speech, with all the other great measures of that speech? This was of itself sufficient ground of complaint that they had no confidence in the Government. The newspapers said the absence of the Attorney General at Washington was the cause of the delay. In 1856 he was a member of the Government, in which they were all new hands. He was in England at that time for two or three months, for the purpose of raising money for the construction of Railways; but it never entered their heads, nor dare they protract the meeting of this Legislature. They were called together on the 14th day of February, only nine or ten days, after he returned. In a few days after the House opened they were met by a vote of want of confidence, but they were sustained. He had then to prepare four or five Railway Bills; there was a precedent for this Government. If they were inspired with a desire to advance the interests of this country, they would have called the Legislature to meet at the usual time. Why have they not done so? Because they knew the public opinion of the country was against them, and they wished to get through with the Session in as quiet a manner as possible. There was no time to go to the business of this country in that deliberate manner in which it should be done. He would ask the members from the rural districts could they leave their farms just about seed time, and attend to the business of