

vince. Take, for instance, the office of Solicitor General. The expense incurred in sending law officers to the Circuit, although convenient for the Government to aid their friends, has been charged upon the public revenue. Although the hon. member of the amendment discharges the duties of the Carleton Circuit, yet there are other cases where the presence of a law officer was required, one of which was connected with a matter of sufficient importance to lead to a correspondence between the British Minister at Washington and the Government of this Province. The origin of the matter was trivial, but the results were important, for it has led to a great deal of bad feeling along the border of the Province, besides inflicting a great injustice upon one individual, who, by means of it, has lost part of his farm. One of the principal law officers on this occasion, who seemed to lead the whole matter, was the aid-at-camp of the Lieutenant Governor. The Governor rules, and his advisers obey, and this is a sample of it. The result of this matter was in consequence of neglect on the part of the Provincial Secretary. In consequence of informality in the first proceedings taken by the Provincial Secretary, and subsequently, the prosecution was abandoned. This was an important matter. Connected, as it is, with a foreign country, it ought not to have been left in the way and manner it was. This shows the want of proper law officers of the Crown, and a sufficient reason why a Solicitor General should have been appointed. It would save the Government from disgrace, and prevent the loss of the public revenue. I am glad that the whole matter is closed, and I hope that in future the like will not occur again.

The elections for York and Westmorland have been brought before the House, but they have nothing to do with the subject of debate, for the question is, whether the members of the Government have discharged their duty. I will read a note which I received from a farmer in the County of Carleton:

CARLETON COUNTY, March 9th, 1866.

MR. C. CONNELL:

Dear Sir,—I hope you will send me the sayings and doings of the House of Assembly, this Session. I hope you will have a good time while there, and that if possible, you will turn out the present Government, and put one in that will save New Brunswick. You have been a good worker in breaking up the old nest, and I hope you will now put your shoulder to the wheel and help turn them out, for we are in jeopardy.

I believe that is the opinion of a very large majority of the inhabitants of this Province, and I know it is of the people of Carleton whom I represent. The hon. member for Kent (Mr. Côté) told us, the other day, that the people in Kent were all dissatisfied with the Government. I can tell the Attorney General that there is one universal feeling of dissatisfaction against the Government throughout the Province. Since the commencement of this debate the eyes of the people of this Province have been opened to see the vacillating conduct of the Government. They were elected to oppose Confederation, and

they have come down here to propound to this House and country that they are in favor of Union. This shows their inconsistency, and their friends and supporters in this House, as well as the people, can have no confidence in them. It is the custom for all Governments in other colonies to propound some policy at the opening of the Session, in order that the House and people may understand their position, but there was nothing of that kind done here last Session. They said there was no time, in consequence of the House being called together late in the season, and a delegation had to be appointed to go to England; but I expected at the meeting of this House the policy of the Government would have been enunciated, and the result of their mission to England made known in this debate, neither of which have been favored with. It is my opinion, that if we cannot get a better scheme we should take the Quebec Scheme. I am not pledged for or against any scheme. If a better one has got I shall be pleased to have it, for we want a union and must have it. We have heard something about being reduced to our original elements by a dissolution of the House, but these things I think will have no influence. The Attorney General said he would go for a scheme of union containing the principle of representation by population, provided there were checks to counterbalance it. If the Government have abandoned the principles upon which they were elected they are deceiving their friends and supporters in this House, and throughout the country, by not bringing before the House their policy on this great question, in comparison with which all other questions should sink into insignificance.

The Surveyor General gives his attention to his office, and when any matter is brought under his notice, so far as I am aware, he gives proper attention to it; but as to the evils existing in the office, it appears he has not the conception of mind to eradicate and reform them. The office requires an over-hauling and re-organizing, for its entire arrangements are a disgrace to the country, but the capacity of the present Surveyor General seems unequal to his position. It is not my intention to go into the question in reference to the sale of lands to Mr. Gibson, for he has got those lands, and is entitled to them by law, if their was a fair competition in their purchase, but if I had been in the Government I would not have done as they did. I would not have come down and found fault with the Tilley Government. I would have come down in a manly, straightforward way, and said, we found the survey was made and we sold the land (Mr. Smith.—It was a charge made against us.) We said the House and country understood that the late Government ordered the survey. There has been a great deal of talk in regard to giving up those lands. I think the Government are chargeable in the standing by their friends. (Mr. Smith.—It is pretty hard to tell who they are.) Mr. Gibson is one of them at all events, and the Government should have required Mr. Gibson to give up his three years license or withhold the sale, and they had the power to do so; as it was, it was not a fair competition. The Crown Land Office requires over-haul-

ing. I have received a great many communications, particularly during the last year, requesting me to communicate with the office, for the interest of the back settlers through the country, in order to bring under the notice of the Surveyor General the grievances that exist. If the Surveyor General had investigated the matter, all these communications might have been saved, and the people been satisfied. I will mention a case that has occurred in the settlements of Knowlsville, Johnsville and Glasgow, in the County of Carleton. A vast number of people place in my hand the certificate from the commissioner, that the work and settlement had been done, and all the requirements of the law complied with. I brought the case of some twenty of these under the notice of the Government, and the reply to my application was, that in most of the cases \$3 still remained due, and required to be paid. I communicated with the commissioner to know the authority under which he acted, and received the following reply:

"In answer to yours of the 4th of January, 1866, I beg to state that all the parties in the list have done work to the amount of \$57, and paid \$3 commission. I have the authority of the Deputy for so doing."

In answer to an enquiry made of Mr. Gowan, dated July, 1864, he made the following statement: "The commission is included in the \$60, viz. \$57 in work and \$3 in cash;" and I have forwarded the said letter to him, the only satisfaction I could get from the department was, a reference to the rules and regulations of the office. With reference to the rules of 1861, establishing the mode of settlement and terms of payment applicable to settlers under the Labor Act, here in the face of these regulations we have the authority of the department to violate them. It is true since this debate has commenced, the Surveyor General has informed me, that all cases up to November, 1865, occurring where \$57 have been paid and \$3 commission, the grants will issue. There is a direct violation of their own rules and regulations, which shows to the country the outrageous manner in which the proceedings of that office is conducted, and the incompetency of its head. In a blustering way he endeavored to fix some charge upon me with reference to my knowledge of the annulment of the order, that no lands should be sold unless for actual settlement. I can state that, to this hour, no communication of the annulment of that order has been made to the deputies throughout this Province, and the only information they have is through the public Press, which showed its disapprobation of the conduct of the head of the department. But the Surveyor General, in excuse, exhibits to this House a petition signed by myself and some others, in October last, in order to show that I knew of the annulment of the order; and that I should have made it known, particularly to Mr. Hartley, who was the deputy. To my certain knowledge Mr. Hartley stated to me, after the exposure in the public Press in December, that it was the first intimation that he had of the repeal of the order. I happened to go into the Crown Land Office previous to my making the application, and it was intimated to me, by Mr.