

Let them consider how dangerous it was to give up power without knowing fully what was the necessity of granting it, and for what purpose it would be used! The House had a right to information, and, as a matter of common decency, the Government ought to give it.

THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY. The Government were not disposed to withhold information. He had stated that the Bill only carried out the resolution passed by the House. It gave the Governor and Council authority to make use of every means to defend the Province by employing armed vessels. If any attack was made, it would likely be by sea. In Nova Scotia, it had been thought necessary to pass a similar Bill. It might not be necessary to use the power granted in the Bill, but it was necessary to give the power. The time was unprecedented in the Province, and they must take every precautionary measure to meet any danger. If any expense for naval defence was called for, he was disposed to be as prudent as possible in expenditure from the general revenue, and to use all proper economy. He assured the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Wetmore) that the Government did not refuse and were always willing to give the most ample information.

Mr. McLELAN quite agreed with the remarks of the Provincial Secretary; the House had already given the Government full authority to take every precautionary measure for the defence of the Province, but he hoped, that in the execution of their trust, they would exercise the most rigid economy. There was a danger, at this time, that the resources of the Province would be drawn upon too largely.

Mr. CONNELL said, he was going to vote for every Bill regarding the army and navy. It was time to give the Government all the authority and all the means they required, and to show that they were determined to defend their homes and firesides. But when he said that the Government should have the fullest authority, he wished to be understood they must exercise proper economy, for they would be held strictly responsible for the expenditure of every dollar. If there was great alarm in the country, he thought that it had been created, in a great measure, by the Government. It was reported that the Government were taking active measures for the protection of St. John, that the militia were called out there. That was right; but why all these preparations at St. John, when the country of the Upper River was most exposed to danger? As he had said before, he did not fear an invasion from a large force, but from incursions from small bands of marauders upon the border; and the Government had fallen very far short of their duty when they neglected to protect the frontier.

Mr. LEWIS said, that the Bill ought to be passed unanimously. He felt that the country was in great alarm about the Fenian movement. He hoped the Government would take every precautionary measure for its defence, and that the country would sustain them.

Mr. BOYD said, that this was the first time when such a Bill had been introduced into the House. He did not fear that the Government would expend a great deal of money for naval defence,

and he had every confidence in them. The Bill was necessary, if for no other purpose than the protection of the Fisheries. He did not doubt that the Imperial Government would order here armed vessels to protect the Fisheries, but the country ought to show that it was willing to do something.

Mr. McMILLAN, quoting the first section of the Bill, wished to have information how the Government were going to make use of the power when they got hold of it. Did they intend to purchase or build gun vessels for the defence of the country and the Fisheries?

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.—The member of Beauséjour knew that it could not be the intention of the Government to purchase or build armed vessels of war. It was not the object to employ the vessels in the protection of the Fisheries.

Mr. NEEDHAM spoke of the cause that had produced all the alarm and excitement. As regarded the alarm, he confessed it had made no impression upon him. It appeared to him mere nonsense; and he would prophesy that at the end of this time next year, it would be found that there had been a great deal more smoke than fire about the Fenian alarm. The House had already given the Government all the resources the Province, and authority to take every measure for its defence. Then what was the use of asking them to explain a part? The member of Carleton (Mr. Connell) said that the Government had credited the alarm; but if he could believe his ears, that hon. member had done more to create alarm than any one else, and had been himself most frightened of any. Mr. Connell said that Woodstock was absolutely undefended; but he (Mr. N.) (here the hon. member gave the details of the information he had received from an individual from that part of the country,) knew that in Woodstock, Florenceville, Hardscrabble, &c., there were seven or eight companies, and a home guard fully armed and equipped. As to the Bill, it was all nonsense to suppose that the Government were going to build or purchase war vessels. All they asked power to do was to hire them if necessary. The Bill gave the Government no more authority than the Imperial Act. If the Government thought it absolutely necessary to have a portion of a navy, they ought to have the power. The moment the Bill was passed the Government must go to work and show that they were determined to do something. With regard to economy, that was all very fine; but were he in a Government, he would do what was right, irrespective of what might be said, no matter whether he might be kicked out or kicked in. He was perfectly willing to vote for the Bill, and had every faith that the Government would exercise economy. He had great faith in the Government. Let the hon. members take up the public accounts now published, and examine for themselves, and see if from first to last the most rigid economy had not been exercised. Never, until this year, had the public accounts been put forth in such a simple manner of Dr. and Co., showing what was received, expended, and what was owed, so that every man, of whatever capacity, in the country could understand them. Very different from the old huffer-mugger system, that only made multiplication more mystified. Economy, he went on to say, was all very well; but he did not like cheese-paring.

He would not support a paltry, cheese-paring Government. When he supported a Government, he must be sure when they were born somebody must have died. With regard to the Bill, if there was an expectation of serious trouble, he was prepared to give the Government all the power that was necessary, and would put the country in a proper state of defence. If Carleton and Woodstock were unprotected, he would protect them; and if St. Stephen and St. Andrews were unprotected, he would also protect them. If they were not now protected, they ought to be. Mr. Needham then proceeded to read an extract concerning Fenianism and the contempt in which it was held in the States, from the *New York Times*, copied into the *Globe*.

Mr. LINDSAY.—The *Globe* is no authority.

Mr. NEEDHAM.—The *Globe* was good authority. It had never been bought and sold. He read the whole of the extract from it, and commented upon it. He quoted with particular emphasis the following passage:

"But should the necessity arise for the United States Government to assert the supremacy of the municipal law of the country, that duty will be loyally performed, even if our lately neutral friends are the first to profit thereby."

He said he had read that sentiment with an immense amount of pleasure. Those words ought to be engraven in gold, and hung up in the most conspicuous places in the halls of every Provincial Legislature, and in the House of Commons in England; and they ought to be engraven in the heart of every true man. Here was a great nation that had been deluged in blood, and been overwhelmed with taxation, and all this to work out and prove to the world that glorious principle of self-government; and in that mighty struggle to stay rebellion, he must say that they received anything but sympathy from these Colonies. Here was that great nation proclaiming that, though its "neutral friends" would be the first to share the benefit, it was determined to assert the supremacy of its municipal law, and protect these Colonies from any raid from American territory. He rejoiced that he was here to pay to the men of that great nation a just tribute to their nobleness. This great Northern American Continent had the salvation of many a crown-head in Europe. Many of them would have been tottered to the centre long before this, had not this great Continent received their disaffected subjects as free men, who otherwise would, by rebellion, have obtained the glorious privilege of freedom. These men looked across the broad Atlantic to this great, glorious and free land, and when they landed on North American soil they breathed the air of pure and unalloyed freedom. It had been said that the Antis were disloyal, but he flung back the charge with contempt. He was loyal to his Queen; he was loyal to his country; he loved the British law and he loved the British Constitution. These were the honest sentiments of his heart.

Mr. LINDSAY said, that this Bill was working out one thing. One of the greatest buggars held up by the Antis was if the Province went into Confederation we would have to support a navy. It appeared by the Bill that we were going to