

As for the Quebec Scheme, the most objectionable part of it was certainly reprehensible by population; but he would tell the Government that, as far as that scheme was concerned, that principle would never be changed. The leaders of Canada had avowed that that never can be receded from. He would very much like to know how his honorable friend (the Attorney General) had come to change his mind. He would quote from his (Attorney General's) address to his constituents:—

"This Union once accomplished and you are bound for all coming time. You cannot retrace your steps. There is no dissolving the compact; your only relief will be in rebellion after the example of the United States."

"Further, what will be our influence in the new Parliament? Fifteen out of one hundred and ninety-four members. Our voice will be feeble—Canada the controlling element—practically in a state of political vassalage for ever. We are proud to be a Colony of Great Britain; but I think you are unwilling to become a dependency of Canada."

The Anti-Confederates, in their canvass, denounced the inquiry of Canadian statesmen; but the course the Government, as pursued here, showed that our politicians were not much to be proud of. He respected any man who, conscientiously, manfully changed his opinion, but he could not respect any man, or any set of men, who did so from merely selfish motives. Such he believed was the moral government of the world—that the honest man would come up all right in the end. They might cajole the people for a time, but sooner or later, when they found that they had been deceived, they would rise in their might and hurl the men who had gained power on false pretences from their places.

Mr. Fisher went on to show that the Government, by their Minutes, had expressed themselves strongly opposed to Confederation, and that up to the 14th of February they had evinced no symptoms of a change of opinion. Why? How was it that they came to change their mind? If they would not tell the House, he thought he would be able to do so in three or four days. It was an extraordinary circumstance that he should read the statement made by the Hon. J. A. McDonald, at a public dinner in Canada, that union would be effected in three weeks. He believed there was some connection between that statement and the avowed policy of the Government. If the Attorney General had made an arrangement with the Canadian Minister, he would like to know what the principal points of the arrangement were. What did they think of the statements the Government had made of the Canadian statesmen? He would tell the House that while these Canadian Ministers would be held in honor—would be famed and celebrated for all time to come—these men would be forgotten forever, or if ever remembered, it would be only to be mentioned with contempt, as men who, to hold on to power,—(no, they had power, but not power)—forgot their principles and their honesty; if remembered, it would be as the first of the Canadian statesmen of New Brunswick who had forgotten her interests and their own responsibility.

A great flourish had been made about a Railway contract. That was one of

the great matters that took a delegation of two of our members of Government to England. He was opposed to that contract, though he was not opposed to Railways. His objection was that the contract with the Company would never be carried out. His opinion was that the object of the Company was to lock up the road and make a handsome sum by selling out when the Inter-colonial Railway came to be built. All that the Government had done in the matter of this contract could have been done for one shilling. All they had to do was to satisfy themselves as to the ability of the Company to build the Railway, and that they might have done by letter. They had agreed to give the Company a further facility by agreeing to pay land damages. Who authorised the Government to do that? The Facility Bill only authorised the giving of a subsidy of \$10,000 a mile. He would like to know, since the Government had opened the door, could they refuse to give further aid to the St. Stephen, Woodstock and Fredericton branches, and to Western Extension? They transcended their power when they gave the Company that additional subsidy.

Then the Government had made a most extraordinary arrangement with regard to the North Shore Steamer. It went all the way to Boston. The Government had not shown much attention to the interests of the Province by that arrangement. (Hon. Mr. Halloway—it was made with the concurrence of every representative of the North Shore.) He had stated what was the fact.

Mr. Fisher then proceeded to speak of the reference made in the speech to financial matters.

"An account of the Income and Expenditure of the past year will be laid before you." Although the Revenue was considerably less than that received in 1864, it yet exceeded the estimate; and I am happy to inform you that since the close of the financial year, it has steadily improved. The estimates, which will be immediately submitted to you, have been framed with as close an attention to economy as a due regard for the exigencies of the public service and the security of the Province would admit."

Was that the whole truth? People might suppose, by this statement, that the Revenue of the last year had exceeded the expenditure; but he had taken the trouble to inform himself on this subject. He had found that the receipts for the fiscal year, 1865, amounted to \$840,390.41, while the expenditure had been \$930,000, leaving a deficiency of \$90,000. Although the revenue had exceeded the estimate—the whole trouble had not been stated—the expenditure had exceeded the total receipts. He did not pretend to know much about financial matters, but what I have stated is the truth.

(Hon. Provincial Secretary—The statement in the speech is the truth.)

Yes, but not the whole truth.

Mr. Fisher went on to speak of his election, and the object he had been elected for, to oppose the present Government; how he had to fight the whole strength and influence of that Government—when he thought of all that the great constituency of York had done for him—he had never been an ungrateful man; he resolved in his mind what he would do to show his gratitude. He thought

of the country—what hardships the people in the back settlements were subjected to for want of roads—and he began to think if something could not be done for them. He remembered that the Province was full of new settlements; and he thought he would go to his friends in Sunbury and Queen's, and other Counties, and see whether they could not, by joining together, raise more money for road appropriations. That was his idea. He thought if he could go to the Government with such parties at his back he could break them down if they refused to comply with their request. He began to look through the public accounts to see where the money could come from. He found in the course of his researches that the Government had been collecting export duty to the amount of \$60,000; and he found, on turning to the Journals, that the Revenue Law expired on May 1st, 1865; and from that time until now they had been collecting duties illegally, and every dollar of that \$60,000 would have to be paid back. He fixed the blame of this gross neglect upon the Provincial Secretary and the Attorney General. He asked the House if there had been an Auditor General and a Solicitor General, could that have happened? A ministry in England that would be found out in so great a neglect of duty could not last an hour. He did not think that there could be found one representative of any constituency in the Province that would dare to go back and justify so great a neglect of duty in a Government. Here were \$60,000 of the public revenue lost to the country, not a dollar of it had been legally collected, and every dollar would have to be paid back. Mr. Fisher concluded by summing up his charges against the Government.

ATTORNEY GENERAL said.—From the position he occupied as the leader of the Government, he was called upon to answer the speech of the mover of the amendment. He had not been at all surprised at the course pursued by that gentleman, because he had heard of the way he had vilified and traduced the members of the Government at the time of the last election in York. He had waited to hear if the hon. member was prepared to make the same statements on the floor of the House as he had made on the hustings. He had waited to hear if he would say now as he said then, that the Government was a disreputable and disloyal Government, and that the traitor Anglin, the Roman Catholic, was its dictator. Would he dare make those statements now? He wondered how he (Mr. Fisher) had dared to make them; he wondered that he could reconcile them with his conscience. What had been the course that gentleman had pursued? It was said, and he believed it, that he had his emissaries out, and that from hamlet to hamlet, village to village, from school-house to school-house, they went, sowing the seeds of strife, awakening the elements of religious discord in the breasts of the people, stirring up sect against sect. What had been the political canvass throughout the country? How had he tried to frighten the people, excite hostility against him, (Attorney General) and poison their minds against the Government? What was the cry raised? Why, if the Government, it was said, was allowed to stand, if the men who held the reins were not ousted from power, the seat of Government would be removed,