

leagues, and renewed several times in the House since the session commenced, is intended to be carried out, or whether it is to be modified—because it must be obvious that that matter has an important bearing on the question of Confederation, with which it has been connected by honorable gentlemen opposite.

HON. MR. GALT—I think the statement made this afternoon by the Hon. Attorney General West is perfectly explicit. The Government intend to ask for a vote on the resolutions now in the hands of the Speaker. With regard to the School question, the Government are under the same pledge as they have always been: it will be legislated upon by this House.

HON. MR. HOLTON—This session?

HON. MR. GALT—It will not be legislated upon this session, because, as the Hon. Attorney General West has stated, it is the intention of the Government to prorogue the House at the earliest date. But all the conditions connected with the resolutions will be legislated upon as a matter of course.

HON. MR. HOLTON—I understand, then, that the pledge to bring down that question this session is withdrawn—the policy of the Government on that point having been modified by the result of the elections in New Brunswick.

HON. MR. GALT—There is no change in the policy of the Government on the subject of Confederation, or any of the other measures connected with it.

HON. MR. HOLTON—But the honorable gentleman must permit me to recall the nature of the pledge given by himself and his colleagues at Sherbrooke and in this House—that there would be a bill brought down by the Government during this session of Parliament, for the amendment of the Lower Canada School laws. This was repeated by the Honorable Solicitor General East, on behalf of the Government, in the course of certain interpellations made on this subject in the absence of my hon. friend the Finance Minister. And the conclusion of the whole matter now is, that the hon. gentleman states emphatically that this is not to be done. The people of New Brunswick, therefore, among the other mischiefs they have wrought by the free exercise of their franchise in the rejection of the Government which undertook, without legislative or other authority, to enter into arrangements for revolutionizing the country—among other mischiefs they have wrought

has been this, that the Minister of Finance and his colleagues conceive themselves to be relieved thereby of the obligations they undertook to the country and to the House—

HON. MR. GALT—No! no!

HON. MR. HOLTON—The obligations they undertook to the country and to the House to bring in an amendment to the Lower Canada School laws during this session of Parliament. The hon. gentleman knows full well—none better than he—the point of these remarks. It may not be appreciated by the House generally, especially by the members from Upper Canada, but the hon. gentleman knows well the importance of it, and that the English Protestants of Lower Canada desire to know what is to be done in this matter of education, before the final voice of the people of this country is pronounced on the question of Confederation. The assurances given by the hon. gentleman led them to believe—and in point of fact they do generally believe—that that measure is to be brought down before the final vote of this House is taken on the question of Confederation. That is the point of the whole matter. And the honorable gentleman now tells us, through his leader, that the Confederation resolutions are to be put through this session immediately, and that commissioners are going to England to press legislation founded on those resolutions, while on the other hand he himself, the great Protestant champion of Lower Canada, who claims the confidence of Lower Canada Protestants in an especial manner, now tells them that this promised legislation is not to be had until next session of Parliament, when it will be too late perhaps to petition this House, or even to send popular petitions to the Imperial Parliament against this measure. Therefore it is, I repeat, that among the many curious results of the free exercise of their franchise by the people of New Brunswick, we have this, that the Protestant champion of Lower Canada is not going to do that which he undertook to do on behalf of his fellow-countrymen and co-religionists—that which he promised this session, but now postpones till another session, when all the circumstances may be changed. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. GALT.—I think the interest evinced by the hon. member for Chateaugay in this matter is somewhat remarkable. I feel grateful indeed to him for the kind solicitude he expresses on my behalf, that I should cause no disappointment to the class which to a certain extent looks to me. Still