Hon Col GRAY.—I never heard any such declaration from the hon member in the Conference.

Hon Mr COLES.—The hon member, then, might have heard it, for not being very well pleased, I made the statement loud enough. I can tell him, also, another point on which we differed, namely, the constitution of the Upper branch of the proposed Federal Legislature.

Hon Col GRAY.—I am unable to tell on what point we were not unanimous, for if there was one delegate at the Conference more ardently in favor of Union than myself, it was the hon member. I was not aware that there was any difference of opinion which was not natural to the Island delegates.

Hon Mr COLES.—I can positively state that the hon member said in the Conference that in Prince Edward Island they were opposed to the principle contained in the resolution which I moved, viz., that the members of the Legislative Council should be appointed by the Local Legislatures.

Hon Col GRAY.—But I positively state that this was not the case. How could I say that the people of Prince Edward Island were opposed to such a principle, when their opinion was not taken on the subject?

Hon Mr COLES.—By the majority of their delegates who were present.

Hon Col GRAY.—The hon member well knows that each Province had one vote at the Conference; and as the leader of the Government, it was my duty to vote for this Colony. When four of our delegates were opposed to any resolution, I was required to say that Prince Edward Island was against it, and the contrary, if the majority were in favor of the proposition. This was the way in which the question was put; and a majority being opposed to the hon member's resolution, I had to say Prince Edward Island was against it.

Hon Mr COLES.—It is admitted then that there was a difference of opinion on this point. On the financial vote Prince Edward Island was unanimous; but this is not the question now before the Committee. With reference to the remark of the hon member for Murray Harbor that no Government could be formed on anti Union principles

Mr DUNCAN.—What I stated was to the effect that no Government could be formed on that principle from the present parties, without dismissing some of their supporters. The Government is not a Union Government; if it were I would not support it.

Hon Mr COLES.—The hon. member apparently does not wish to censure the Government for what it has done in appointing a Unionist; but I think the case has been very well stated by the hon member from New Glasgow, that it is dangerous to have so many Unionists in the Executive, for if delegates have to be sent Home, they may appoint those who are strongly disposed to favor the proposed Confederation, and therefore commit the country to the scheme. There are several acts of the Government during the past year to which I object; but the appointment under consideration is one of which I entirely disapprove. When the question of Union comes up again perhaps my hon friend on the right, (Mr Whelan) will place the Government in a more awkward position by moving a resolution in favor of the scheme.

Hon Mr WHELAN.—My hon friend on the left (Hon Mr Coles) seems very anxious to drag me out on the floor on this occasion. I, however, shall say only a very few words. In this discussion I consider as altogether irrelevant, because the question of Confederation must come up again when the papers on the subject are laid before the House. I will not, therefore, enter into the merits of the scheme at present, though I am not at all disposed to evade any responsibility which attaches to me in the matter. I have no desire to act one part in Canada and another in Prince Edward Island. (Hear, hear, from Hon Col Gray.) Though the delegates from this Colony did not gain all they could wish, yet I was not disposed to throw aside a great question, and one which I shall be prepared by and by to show, will be for the advantage of this Island. The amendment of my hon friend on the left, was brought forward, I imagine, to show his opposition to the Union scheme at the earliest possible period; and perhaps to show that he is still in opposition to the Government. With respect to the latter, I will ever stand true to my party, when the local policy of the Government is opposed to my well understood principles, but on the question of Confederation I cannot shut my eyes to the fact, which has presented itself to some of the greatest minds on the continent, that it is one of such momentous importance as to call upon us to act upon it without reference to old party predilections. Should the Government, then, be prepared to introduce a measure to give effect to the Report of the Quebec Conference, they shall have my hearty support. One of the reasons assigned by my hon friend for submitting the amendment before the Committee, was that he wished to show the people of the other Provinces that this House was not in favor of a Union of the Colonies. But I believe the course which he has taken will have the contrary effect to what he intended. He ought to have chosen another time to show his opposition to Union, for hon members on the other side of the House cannot be expected to support his motion, although they may agree with him in his opposition to Confederation; consequently the division on his resolution will be such as to lead the people of the other Provinces to suppose that the Confederation scheme is not very unfavorably received by this House. It is not my place or my intention to defend the Government, but it appears to me to be a most injudicious proceeding on the part of my hon friend to single out a particular appointment on which to censure the Administration. If we are to object to the policy of the Government, let us do it on general grounds. For my part, I may state that I approve of the appointment of the Solicitor General—not that I say it ought to have been made at this particular time, for I hold that the Government should have had firmness enough to tell their principal Crown Officer to resign, and thus save them the necessity of resuscitating an office which has become obsolete and unnecessary. This is the course which I think they ought to have pursued. But to object to the appointment of the Hon Solicitor General, because he has expressed himself in favor of Confederation, is a proceeding of which I cannot approve. I rather hold it as one reason why he should be appointed. This view is strengthened by the fact that the other gentleman appointed at the same time as the Solicitor General, is opposed to Union. With regard to the second appointment, I think the Government might have selected a person having stronger political claims on their party; but I will not censure them for the appointment on the ground of his opposition to Union. This question of Confederation is one which should be viewed in all its future bearings; and the Government will doubtless make known their policy respecting it, when the papers on the subject come up for consideration. Since Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has recommended them to give the scheme effect, they