

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON MR. FISHER'S
AMENDMENT.

Mr. NEEDHAM resumed. I shall now quote my hon. colleague's (Mr. F.) Speech on a Want of Confidence motion in 1854, which was published in what is called the "political primer," in which he gives his opinion of the Colonial office, and despatches from that office. I shall make very few comments. This speech was delivered when the Hon. John A. Street was Attorney General. He (Mr. F.) said, "a despatch, in his (the Attorney General's) estimation, was more of political value than the action of the Local Legislature," and again, "he (Mr. F.) would like to see an attempt to carry the despatch into effect; he told Mr. Brown last spring, to pay no attention to it, and to come to the House if he wished. The Executive had allowed this to pass without remark or remonstrance, though it was a direct attempt to restrict them in the right to self-government." My hon. friend is not consistent here with the opinions he now expresses. He charges the seven with using strong language in their reply to Mr. Cardwell's despatches, and in 1854 he accuses the Government of bowing down to the Colonial Office. Here was a despatch come out from home stating that a Legislative Councillor could not leave unless his resignation was accepted by Her Majesty, and that the Governor had no power to accept it. This was not only in reference to a despatch from the Colonial Office, but it involved one of the Crown prerogatives, which every man is supposed to submit to. But says my hon. colleague, though it be a royal prerogative, I say to you, Mr. Brown, pay no attention to the Queen's prerogative. Pay no attention to the Colonial Office, but come to the House when you like. I hold he is bound in duty to his and my constituents, and to the people of this Province, to show why, after having made such a treasonable expression, he now turns round and charges this Government with truckling to the Colonial Office. Then again, he says, "by allowing Sir Edmund Head to appoint Judge Cartier Chief Justice, the Council had quailed before him." It seems to be his idea that any Government in which he is not, quails before the British Government. He goes on, "They had allowed the Province to be governed by despatches, and inroad after inroad to be made upon the principles of self-government." If these were then his views, has he abandoned Responsible Government now? If we were to form our opinion of Responsible Government from its action in this country, and from the action of its supporters in this House, then in truth and verity is Responsible Government a humbug, while in reality it is not so. But I hold that if my hon. colleague meant what he said on that occasion, then his charges against this Government, in respect to those despatches, are utterly valueless. He continues: "This discussion would put an end to government by despatches." Who revived the ghost and brought it from the shades below? My hon. friend, he is the man who put him down, and now he blows his trumpet and the ghost appears. Then again he goes on: "It would teach all future Governments to act like men of spirit and independence, and not truckle to any Governor or

Colonial Secretary." But now he says, how dare you do as I told you ten years ago. That despatch, written by the immortal seven as they are called, is an evidence that they do not truckle to the Colonial Secretary. No man need be ashamed to sign that despatch, and the only regret that I have—if it is ever connected with the history of the country as it ought to be—is, that I cannot constitutionally append my name to it. The Hon. Mr. Ritchie, who supported my hon. colleague in that debate, and assisted him to overthrow the then Government, says: "On the 28th April, 1851, he (Mr. R.) moved the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That while this House should always receive with respect, the advice of the Colonial Secretary, this House cannot but look on the extract of the despatch of Earl Grey, dated the 25th day of November, 1850, submitted by His Excellency, by message of the 13th day of February last, as a dictation inconsistent, not only with the interests of the country, but in direct opposition to the principles of self-government, heretofore conceded, and which, if successfully persisted in, makes Responsible Government a mere mockery and delusion."

Dame rumor said, that when that Government was formed my hon. colleague agreed with Judge Ritchie that he was to have the Judgeship, and my hon. colleague, the Attorney General—(Mr. Fisher—No such agreement)—there were many ways of coming to an understanding and yet enabling the contractors to say it was not so. But, at all events, so the day happened Mr. Ritchie did get the Judgeship. My hon. colleague, the Attorney Generalship, just as Dame Rumor reported, in this instance, "common rumor was not a common liar."

I came into the House in 1851 to oppose the then existing Government. My hon. colleague and Judge Wilnot were in the Government, and I was sent here by the Liberals of St. John, who believed in the doctrine of Responsible Government—to oppose them because they had forfeited their right to be called Liberals, by abandoning Responsible Government, by shuffling themselves in with parties who were their opponents, and having done so they could not say they did it with their eyes shut, because they knew that after Responsible Government was adopted in Nova Scotia, through the hard work of the Hon. Joseph Howe, they formed a coalition with the so-called Tory Government, and the result was that they smashed to pieces. When they attempted to do the same thing here, they must have known they could have fallen into the same dilemma. Messrs. Gray, Wilnot, Titley and myself were sent here to oppose that Government. I did it to the best of my ability. I opposed them right or wrong, and that is the way I like to see a Government opposed. I do not mean to say they should do this on ordinary measures, but they should oppose them on measures introduced as Government measures. It is well known that I did it when I came to the House on that occasion, but for some reason or other we could not beat them. The next year Messrs. Wilnot and Gray joined that Government, and Messrs. Ritchie, Simonds and Titley resigned, and they cal-

ing the Commander-in-Chief passed in 1862, and endeavored to prove that the Governor in Council was only responsible for the money which was expended for military purposes, and the Commander-in-Chief was alone responsible for any act of misfeasance, malfeasance or the disposition of the troops.) In regard to Fenianism, I do not believe there is one native Fenian in the Province connected with any Circle or any Head Centre, and I do not believe there ever will be one in this country. I do not believe it ever was the intention of any filibusters in the United States to make raids upon any of the British Provinces. It is an old saying that "the dog that bites does not bark." Men don't make such boasts in order to enable their opponents to be prepared. I do not believe that Roberts or O'Mahoney ever dreamed of crossing the border line of these Provinces. If they did, I have faith in the integrity of that great nation alongside of us to know that whatever wrong she may have suffered at the hand of other nations, in their opinions and sympathies, she has too high an opinion of her dignity as a nation, and of her standing among the family of nations on the earth, to allow any filibustering expedition to cross her land to go to another country and raise the flag of rebellion to overthrow the government of that country. So long as that power stands, so long will she, in her own integrity and dignity, maintain that international law which is the life of the world. I do not believe in the doctrine of Fenianism, but I entertained my views in regard to the wrongs of Ireland. My hon. friend (Mr. Kerr) spoke of the Union of Scotland with England. It is a matter of history that the purse of Queen Anne was drained to the dregs to purchase the members of the Parliament of Scotland to sell their country, and the names of the men who sold it are this day in eternal infamy. Scotland at that time was crippled, for she had just come out of the great Darien expedition, and her ships and commerce were not protected by the British flag, but the moment she came into that union her commerce was extended and her ships protected by the Union Jack of old England. How was the Union with Ireland effected? By fraud and rapine. We are told this in history, and it cannot be illiterated. Men in Ireland sold their parliament for Lords, Earls, Dukes, and paltry pelf. I do not say it was a natural consequence, but it stands as a beacon light that scarcely any one of them died a natural death. Scotland has benefited by that Union, but let Scotland have what we now have here, a Parliament of our own, with an independent local self-government, and you would see where she would be now.

The Debate was now adjourned, Mr. Needham to resume at 11 o'clock to-morrow, and the House was adjourned until 10 A. M.

T. P. D.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3rd.

The House in Committee agreed to an Act to aid the construction of the Woodstock Railway. After which the order of the day was taken up, viz:—