

elected to oppose the scheme. Among all their indictments, I cannot see that one has been sustained. I cannot see one reason for turning out the present Government. It is true, since they came into power there has been a continual cry throughout the country that the people had changed their minds about Confederation. In the County of King's, if there is any change, it is rather against the scheme. I admit there has been an oversight in not observing that the Export Duty Law was about to expire. Of that oversight the Government have taken the responsibility, and the difficulty has been remedied without the loss of a single dollar. If they have been guilty of the omission, they might well be excused under the circumstances. There was a continual pressure brought to bear upon them from Canada, England, and the Confederates of this Province; and the press has been most unscrupulous. The Provincial Secretary has said all I had to say about them, and I agree with every word he said concerning them. My hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Lindsay) has said the British Government wished us to enter into Confederation. I looked upon this question as one for the people of New Brunswick to decide. I do not believe we are to be dictated to even by the British Government, and we should not submit to Downing Street dictation. I have heard the hon. mover of the amendment harangue the House in former times, complaining of the Government being led by Downing Street dictation. My hon. friend has told us that, if we were loyal subjects of Great Britain, we would submit to any thing. (Mr. Lindsay.—I said loyalty consisted in obedience.) When I speak of the Queen I speak with respect; but those men in office are no more than we are. They may be there to-day and out to-morrow. What does Mr. Cardwell know about the benefits arising from Confederation? The people have told Mr. Cardwell that they do not want Confederation, but still the scheme is agitated; and we have the forty-second member of the House going through the length and breadth of the land, lecturing the people upon the benefits of the scheme—a professional politician, with nothing to do but to stir up people's minds about Confederation. He is now on the floors of the House, or the next thing to it. I heard my hon. friend (Mr. Wetmore) talk about the stuffing process. I think he is getting as much stuffing as any other hon. member in this House, and I think my hon. friend from Westmorland is getting stuffed too.

Mr. WETMORE.—My hon. friend refers to stuffing. I shall be happy to hear him go on and tell how the Government are stuffing him.

Mr. SCOVIL.—I will tell him that no Government is stuffing me. I did not come into this House to seek for office. (Mr. Wetmore.—They stuff you, and you don't know it.) I have common sense, and I do not allow the Attorney General or the forty-second member to stuff me. Those individuals who are looking up with their mouths open, getting stuffed, will have to disgorge, to explain themselves to their constituency.

There has been a great cry raised about a Minute of Council, signed by the members of the Government and addressed to Mr. Cardwell, whom the hon. mover of the amendment wishes to bow down to and worship. I saw this dispatch and thought

it a well-written article. I read that dispatch over to a person who had told me it was one of the worst documents he ever saw. But before I got through, he said the country ought to be proud that they had seven men, such men in the Government, who would honestly express their opinions.

I was always in favor of union, and when the Quebec Scheme came up, I tried, if possible, to agree with it. I sifted it, and came to the conclusion that New Brunswick would be nowhere under that scheme; for under it, I do not believe the rights and interests of the people are protected. (Mr. Lindsay.—How, then, can you eulogize the men who said they were opposed to a union of the Provinces?) I gave them credit for using those strong terms. We do not want any closer union with Canada, unless we see the rights of the people protected. (Mr. Wetmore.—Did you say, during the election, that you were in favor of union?) We had the Quebec Scheme, and we had to swallow the whole of it or reject it. I told the people that I looked upon a union of the Colonies as advantageous, but I did all I could to satisfy the people that the Quebec Scheme was not the scheme for New Brunswick; and I should be recreant to my trust if I went against those men who formed this Government on those principles, for if they were ousted, I have no doubt but it would be an advantage to the scheme. I believe people are apt to change their mind. I have changed my mind in some things. I was a young politician when I came here, and in the course of my political life in this House, I always condemned a Government for dismissing good public servants to put others in their place, but I have got to be almost a smasher on that point. I used to think the Government would live down such opposition, but I believe now that when a public officer goes out to canvass, and uses his office for a canvassing shop, he should be turned out of his office at once. (Mr. L. P. W. DesBrisay.—I would ask him how he supports a Government that is unable to turn out even the meanest man holding an office in this Province?)

There was then some conversation between Mr. Wetmore and Mr. Scovil regarding the appointment to offices, and bribery, after which the debate was then adjourned until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. SCOVIL, by leave, brought in a Bill to change the Constitution of the Legislative Council, after which the House was adjourned until 10 A. M. to-morrow.

T. P. D.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24.

Mr. BOYD called attention to a paragraph in the *Morning News*—which he read—reflecting upon his popularity as a militia officer, and asserting that he had been superseded. So far he said from being the most unpopular officer in the militia; he would take it upon himself to say that there was not a more popular officer in the service. Instead of superseding him, the Government had asked him if he could conveniently take command of his battalion at this time. He (Mr. Boyd) had told His Excellency that he could not, and His Excellency then said, if he could not go, he would send another officer to take command in his

place. The statements in the *News* were a parcel of the greatest lies ever fabricated.

Hon. Mr. HATHEWAY called the attention of the House to a statement in an article in the *Fredericton Reporter* in which he (Hon. Mr. Hatheway) was made to say that His Excellency had entrusted him with the formation of the Government. He gave that statement a flat contradiction. The editor or reporter of that paper in which it appeared, having sat through the debate, must have known it to be untrue. What he had said was that His Excellency had called upon him to form an administration, but he declined.

House went into Committee of the Whole on a Bill to amend the act to incorporate the Albert Railway Company.

Mr. KERR spoke first (but owing to noise in the House we could not catch the exact purport of his observations). He called the attention of the Attorney General to the Bill.

ATTORNEY GENERAL said the observations of the hon. member of Northumberland showed better than any observations he could make the effect of going into Confederation under the Quebec Scheme, with its cardinal principle of representation by population. It was said there was no danger of the Province with its limited representation being swamped. But here at home in the attitude assumed by that hon. member in this Bill, was an illustration on a small scale of what would happen to the Province under Confederation. It had been said that if the Province went into Confederation, that it would not be taxed for the construction of Canals in Canada, for it would have a voice in the matter. But how, with an overwhelming Canadian majority, and on questions affecting Canadian interests, could the representatives of the Province protect it against large expenditures. With regard to the Bill under consideration, its object was simply to extend the time given to the Company to construct the railway from two to five years. The Subsidy Act under which the Company was formed was now the law of the land; there was no limitation to it. It was no act of grace; therefore to give any Company the privileges of the Bill; it was a legislative right. He thought the Company ought to have the extension of time; they were expecting aid from England, and the result would, he anticipated, be the construction of the railway.

Mr. CONNELL had no objection to support the Bill. With reference to the objections raised by the hon. member of Northumberland (Mr. Kerr) he thought that the people of the North Shore were much more able to take advantage of the Subsidy Act, and build a railway in that district, than the people of St. Stephen and Woodstock to construct their branches.

Mr. HILL doubted very much the policy of incurring large debts for railways; he had always thought that railways should not be built faster than the interests of the Province required. Though opposed to the principle, yet now that the Province had adopted the course of construction of railways under the Subsidy Act, he thought that fair play to the sections that had not yet taken advantage of that Act demanded that they should not now go back. He was willing to