

Council of Public Instruction, and he regretted it exceedingly as he thought his presence there, and the benefit of his experience would be of great value to the deliberations of that body. He would not press the matter any further, as the Prov. Sec. had stated that it would be distasteful to the feelings of his Excellency, and he would therefore withdraw his motion.

Hon. PROV. SEC. trusted that the hon. gentleman would withdraw his motion, and not put the Government in the unpleasant position of having to vote against it.

Mr. ARCHIBALD expressed his regret to hear the statement made by the Prov. Sec., that his Excellency had expressed his unwillingness to be connected with the Council of Public Instruction. He looked upon his presence there as a matter of great importance, but after what the Prov. Sec. had stated, the member for Kings had done right in withdrawing his motion.

Mr. BLANCHARD moved that the bill be re-committed for the purpose of striking out certain clauses relating to the City of Halifax, a resolution had been placed in his hands which had been passed by the City Council by a vote of 10 to 5, and altho he did not agree with it in all its points, he thought the house ought to pay proper respect to the voice of the City as heard through its representatives.

The hon. gentleman read the resolution from the City Council as follows:—

*Resolved*, That that portion of the school bill which specially relates to the City of Halifax is arbitrary in the principle of compulsory assessment, and is inapplicable to the circumstances of the City of Halifax,—and this Council representing the various wards of the City protest against its passage through the Legislature."

When it was considered that the City Council, elected by the citizens and representing their interests were refused power by the house to tax the people for the purchase of what they considered valuable property, it was no wonder that they complained that the power of taxation for the erection of school houses, should be taken away from them, and vested in irresponsible commissioners. He would ask the house whether they were prepared to place in the hands of those men uncontrolled powers to tax the people for the erection of school houses in each ward of the city. Not only was this objectionable feature in the bill, but the necessary consequence of the passage of these clauses would be the establishment of separate schools in the City of Halifax. There were two denominations prepared to come in and take advantage of these clauses in the bill, the Episcopalians and the Roman Catholics—and there were no other denominations in a position to do so. He did not wish to make any invidious remarks in reference to these two denominations. It was greatly to their credit that they had erected handsome school houses, but that was no reason why they should come in and monopolize the public moneys to the exclusion of all other bodies. He did not see why the city should be placed upon a different footing from the rest of the province, and why it should be allowed to elect its own Trustees, with uncontrolled powers of taxation. As he before remarked the taxation of the city was increasing to an alarming extent, and he was surprised at the

silence of the representatives for the city, who were more immediately interested in the subject.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON said that the hon. member for Inverness seemed anxious that his own constituents and the people far away should be taxed, and he himself escape. Now, as regards the position of the city of Halifax, they had had a law on the statute book for years which had never been carried out; and his object was to get a law that could be carried out. This bill had been for sometime before the house and the country, and where were the petitions from the city against it? Not one. It was true that the City Council were now moving in the matter, but they did not object to any particular clause of the bill, their resolution is against the whole bill. If they had said they objected to the mode of appointment of trustees, he could have understood them, but they went against the whole principle of assessment. He could not understand the force of the remarks of the member for Inverness as to separate schools. The congregation of St. Luke's had an admirable school house. If an arrangement could be made with them—not to hand over the school monies to the Dean and Chapter, but to get them to hand over the school house to the Council of Public Instruction for a free school, he did not see what objection there could be; and so with the Roman Catholics, who were about erecting a handsome school house, and so with the National school, and others in the different wards; if they could be obtained no great necessity would exist for taxation for the erection of school houses. He was not at all afraid of this bugbear of separate schools—raised by the member for Inverness.

Mr. BLANCHARD denied that he made any such statement as that his constituents might be taxed, while the citizens of Halifax should go free. He said that taxation was heavy enough already, in Halifax, and he was not willing to give uncontrolled powers to persons responsible to nobody. He was not afraid to give his constituents power to tax themselves, but the member for Halifax appeared to be so. The hon. gentleman says this idea of separate schools is only a bug-bear; and he talks about St. Luke's, and the Roman Catholics handing their school houses over to the Council of Public Instruction. Does anybody believe that the Dean and Chapter of St. Luke's would hand over their handsome school houses, without retaining the power to control the school? or that the Roman Catholics would hand over theirs without retaining the appointment of the teachers? He thought not. If they were going to have separate schools, let them say so at once; but don't let it be done in such an underhand way.

Mr. MILLER should vote against Mr. Blanchard's motion for the very reasons he had given in its favor.

Mr. TOBIN hoped that the hon. member would not press his motion. This subject should be approached with delicacy and moderation; and unless each one was prepared to give way, to a certain extent, to the other, it would be impossible to carry out the system.

Mr. PRYOR said he gave his cordial support to the clauses in the bill relating to the city of Halifax, and he was prepared to take the responsibility of the course he had pursued.