

the country with freedom from care, even if they had the time to do it. The meeting of the Legislature was delayed by the Government to suit their own purposes. They did not wish to meet their representatives of the people any sooner. Why was the Hon. Attorney General sent to Washington, if the Government was so weak they could not contend this House until he returned? Why not have sent a commercial man, or some other member of this House? Again, look at the course they took in calling this House together; proclamation after proclamation, a few days then, and a few days more. This was consistent with every other set of the administration of this Government. Look at the legislation of last year. The Government tried to make the word anti-confederate the political shibboleth throughout the country. Every man could not come to that mark was proscribed. They are Confederate now. You cannot put your finger upon one Act of importance passed during the last Session, except the "Military Act." They tried to abolish the office of Postmaster General, but he considered of all others that office should be political. Why did they not fill it? Because they could not get a man who had a chance of being re-elected if he went back to his constituents. His hon. friend, (Hon. Mr. Smith) might laugh, but he knows it is the truth. This Government cannot perform the functions of a Government, which are to control, regulate and influence the Legislature of the country. They brought forward a Post Office Bill as a Government measure. That Bill was intended to abolish the office of political Postmaster General; but of all the Departments of the country, none are more requisite to be made political and retained so than that office. If he increased in importance very rapidly during the past nine years, and it is of importance to have the head of that Department in this House. They found they could not carry this Bill. (Hon. Mr. Smith—We carried it here.) What was the good of that? If the Government were right, why did they not persevere and carry it again? Because they saw they were wrong. He would submit to the House whether they had performed the functions and sustained the character a Government should have done! What is the object of a Government? Old histories do not speak of such an institution. It was introduced when the Prince of Orange came to the throne, and we, after great controversy, have secured the same description of Government as they have in the mother country. The Governor shall be sacred as the Queen is, and responsible to her only; and every local act, whether military or civil, some one should be responsible for. There have been provided enough offices to give a quorum of Executive Councilors to discharge the public business. When the great controversy occurred in Nova Scotia, when Lord Grey wrote a despatch to Sir John Harvey, which despatch was the wording of the new Constitution, he said it was necessary to have five political offices with salaries in order that the Governor might have a Council about him. Now he would like to know how many hours the Surveyor General or the Attorney General have been here this season. Why is it the office of Solicitor General vacant? It is not from a spirit of economy, but it is from political expediency. The office delegates from one to the other, from Restigouche to Charlottetown,

and they cannot find a man that will run his election. He held that this Government was not to blame in not having a Crown Officer here for a great part of the year, which was a state of things this country would not endure. His hon. friend the Attorney General had not been at Fredericton a fortnight. They have lost more than the salary of one of the Crown Officers by what he conceived to be their neglect. They would find when the accounts came in, that the cost of conducting the Crown business would far exceed the amount of the Solicitor General's salary. The country provides for offices of this kind, and it is a violation of the Constitution not to have them filled, and if they violate it one way they will another. The year he went to England he was compelled to get Mr. Johnstone to come over in order that the Governor might have a Crown Officer to advise him. If the Government could have found a man to run they would not have allowed the office of Solicitor General to hang, like Mahomet's coffin, between heaven and earth.

Why not appoint an Auditor General? It is a violation of the Constitution not to do so. Mr. Fisher then read the law concerning the office, and continued: here was a law making arrangements for that office, defining the Auditor General's duties, and imposing upon him certain responsibilities; he is to have to a certain extent judicial powers. This office was woven in the woof of their Constitution, and was one of great importance to the interests of this country. He did not know what the state of the department was, but he was well satisfied that there were hundreds and thousands of entries which had never been audited, and it would now take an efficient Auditor a long time to bring the business up to the present time. The office is a check upon the accounts and expenses of the country. The smallest body or society in this country find it expedient to find some man to audit their accounts, while the Province is without an Auditor General. This is a ground of complaint, and a reason for their condemnation. That officer has by law judicial power to summon witnesses, and institute enquiries, for which purpose he is armed with extraordinary powers. If they dispensed with an officer of this kind they could not tell what they would lose, and having violated the law in that respect, he would ask the House to condemn them. A great deal has been said about the sale of large tracts of land. He would give no opinion as to the propriety or impropriety of selling large tracts of land, but in this case there was a regulation that forbade the sale of lands in the vicinity of the proposed line of Railway, pending the negotiations for that purpose. That regulation was suspended by request, without public notice of it being given. That is a state of things no Government should have allowed. He was told that persons in the upper part of the country who had applied for the purchase of the lands along the line were told that they had no authority to sell. The Government should not have been a Government of secrecy. If they thought the regulation should have been rescinded, they should have notified the country, for while that regulation was in existence, no one felt encouraged to apply for those lands, therefore the Government rescinded that regulation it should have been made public.

Another complaint he had to make against them was that the "Minute of Council the Government entered into last summer in regard to Confederation," was an insult to the Queen and the Queen's Ministers. He found in the introductory part of that Minute—which they will find in the *Royal Gazette* of the 23rd of August—they say that they do not know what Mr. Cardwell's despatch refers to, when they had before them his despatch in which he states in the introductory part of it that he had correspondence with Lord Monck on the subject of a Union of the North American Provinces, and goes on and details its objects, benefits and advantages. If the Attorney General should write a letter in the same plain manner, to an ignorant man upon some subject, and he should write an answer like this Minute of Council, he would say he was a low fellow. What does the Minute of Council say? It goes on to say they suppose the despatch refers to a Union of the Provinces, but give it no plain answer. He would put it to the House whether that was a proper manner to treat the Queen's despatch. Does not Mr. Cardwell say what the letter is for? He speaks distinctly upon the subject of Confederation, and speaks of the action of New Brunswick upon it, and hopes we will alter our mind. With all this before them, they suppose it relates to some scheme for the Confederation of the Provinces. That was an insulting way to put it, and was an insult to the people of this Province, and to the Queen's Minister. He could not express himself in strong enough language to denote his entire disapprobation of it. He would also condemn this Government for their secrecy. Why had they withheld the despatches? How did it happen their information in regard to those despatches came from Nova Scotia and Canada, and this despatch never saw the daylight until Sir Richard MacDonnell published it in Nova Scotia, and the people of this Province got it from there? Was not this humiliating to know that they could not get an answer from Her Majesty to their humble representations in their own Province, and through their own organs. He would ask how his hon. friend from Charlotte (Mr. Hill) would vote. He knew the man from whom he had descended, for he had worked with him in securing to this Province Parliamentary Government, and he would have voted against any Government that would retain documents and knowledge of that kind which was intended for us. It is a principle woven in the woof of our Constitution that knowledge of this kind should be communicated to them as soon as possible. When Her Majesty, through Her Secretary of State, speaks to the people of this Province, the Government have no right to say—look the document up, so that no one can see it. (Mr. Anglin—How long was it locked up?) Until the Government of Nova Scotia gave it to us. We would not have got it until this day if they had not given it there. The House has a right to receive full copies of all despatches, correspondence and documents. They are the representatives of the people, and it is part of the Constitution of this country that they should receive full copies of all despatches on all matters connected with local affairs, so that the House may have full information upon all matters of a local character. This Government must have had a despatch from Mr. Cardwell in their