

great sympathy expressed for the members of the rural districts. I have not heard a single gentleman complain that the House was not called together soon enough. In Canada it is not called until the 10th of April. In Prince Edward's Island the 9th of April; in Nova Scotia ten days or a fortnight ago. He said he thought one man had stopped the whole Legislative power of the country. I was sent to Washington by my colleagues. Mr. Cudlip was invited to meet the delegates, who expected to meet at New York, but he could not go. I went to St. John. Mr. Wilmot was not there, and the Government agreed that I should go to Washington to meet the other delegates. We did not expect to have to go into an elaborate discussion of the Reciprocity Treaty at all. We went with a view of obtaining from the United States an extension of the Treaty for one year. When we got there we found a Treaty could not be made at all, for all Treaties made between the United States and other Governments requires the affirmation of the Senate, and does not require to be sent to the House of Representatives, for if they have power to make a commercial treaty they ignore the functions of that body. In the interchange of commodities it was desirable to have some arrangement made of a permanent character. They said whatever arrangements were made should be carried out by future legislation in all good faith. We entered into negotiations with them; the proposition made by us, and their answer, have been published. We felt we could not agree to their terms, in justice to our own people, and we therefore closed our negotiations. I shall not say anything further upon this point, as I may have an opportunity of explaining exactly what took place while I was there. It has been said that the interests of the people of this Province are not safe in calling the Legislature together at so late a period. It is very desirable to call the House together rather later, for we know when the House breaks up before the River opens it makes it difficult for some of us to get home. Was it ever said by a member of a deliberative assembly before, that a Government should be ousted from power because they called the Legislature three weeks later than usual. There is a good substantial reason why this Legislature should not be called earlier. It was known that Canada was anxious that our Session should be called. Why did they not call their own; they have not had a Session for the last fifteen months, except a short Session, which was called last Spring to authorise a loan and impose an additional tax. When a treaty with the United States had to be made by Legislation, was it not sufficient to justify the House in not meeting at the usual period, because, if we had made an arrangement with the United States Government it would require to be legislated upon by this Legislature. It has been brought against us that we ought forward no measures last Session except the Military Bill. Where is the Treasury Note Bill, or the Post Office Bill? which has been put forward as a first step towards the removal of the seat of Government, but which was not thought of at all, it being merely to abolish the head of a department. It was not expected under the circumstances, that measures would be brought forward last Session, when

it was the desire of the Government and every member of the House, to shorten the Session and get home as soon as possible.

My hon. friend says, we are entitled to condemnation because we brought in a Bill to abolish the office of Postmaster General, but the hon. members, fresh from their constituents, supported it thirty to nine. There is a feeling throughout the country that the office might be abolished without detriment to the public service, and in connection with this, he would state that Mr. Odell had discharged the duties of the office as efficiently as any gentleman had, since its creation. When the hon. gentleman had told the people of York that they were to be destroyed, did he tell them that when Mr. Wilmot and myself formed the Government they had not forgotten the interests of York? In the formation of the Government, they had selected one-third of the members from that County, viz: the hon. Commissioner Board of Works, the Attorney General, and the Postmaster General, who, being a member of the Upper House, filled one of the most important offices in the country, and being interested in the prosperity of the County of York. How dare they say to the people of this country that this Government were not going to give York fair play? How could they expect the seat of Government could be removed with one-third of the entire Government from the County of York? I believe it was the fear of this, together with the agitation about Fenianism, that had an influence in the election; for I believe the people of this country are as much against the Quebec Scheme as ever. If you get a scheme that will provide for the interests of the people, I will go for it; but it is not in the four corners of that scheme to do it. My hon. friend says, the Quebec Scheme is in the Speech. It is there because the Governor is commanded by the despatch to submit it to Parliament; but we are not bound by this. What does the Governor say in his Speech last Session? He says:—

"At the request of the Governor General of Canada, and with the approbation of the Queen, I also appointed delegates to a Conference of Representatives of the British North American Colonies, held in Quebec in the month of October last, with a view of arranging the terms of a Federal Union of British North America. The resolutions agreed to by this Conference appeared to me to be so important in their character, and their adoption fraught with consequences so materially affecting the future condition and well-being of British America, that, in order to enable the people of New Brunswick to give expression to their wishes on the subject, I determined to dissolve the then existing House of Assembly. I now submit these Resolutions to your judgment."

Did he then tell us that because he was going to submit these Resolutions and recommend them—an expression not used in this Speech—that we are committed to a scheme? I will relieve that hon. gentleman's mind. I will inform this House that the Government are not prepared to submit any scheme to the House. Those papers will be submitted to the House, as we said in

the Speech, and we will consider them with that respect which is due to anything emanating from so high a source, at the same time not forgetting that it is our duty to consent to no scheme that does not contain within itself the elements of security for our people. If a scheme could be devised that would promote the interests of our people, I, for one, would go for it, and I think my colleagues in the Government, every member of the House, and every man in the country, would go for it too. Whether such a scheme is attainable, is a question for deliberation.

Mr. NEEDHAM moved that the debate be adjourned until 2 P. M.

House adjourned until 10 A. M.

T. P. D.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15.

After the usual routine, the House went into Committee—Mr. Needham in the Chair—on a Local Bill: a Bill to provide more effectually for the repairing of the Roads, Bridges and Streets of the Parish of Newcastle, in the County of Northumberland. Passed.

Mr. GILBERT moved that the Bill to provide for the better security of the Ballot, be referred to a Committee to report thereon.

Mr. LINDSAY brought in a Bill to extend the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace in civil suits.

Mr. GILBERT moved that his Bill to simplify the practice of law and abolish special bail, be referred to a Committee.

Mr. NEEDHAM brought in a Bill to amend the practice of the Supreme Court. Mr. N. said he intended to move the Bill just brought in amendment to that of Mr. Gilbert. It was the Bill framed by the late Attorney General—the present Judge Allen.

Mr. FISHER moved the House into Committee—Mr. Young in the Chair—on a Bill further to amend the law relating to Parish Schools.

The hon. mover explained the object of the Bill was to supply a want in the original School Bill—to extend to Counties the same privileges as Parishes and Districts with regard to assessment for Schools. The Bill did not design to make any alteration in the School Law, but merely to make plain what was doubtful; to carry out what he considered must have been the intention of the framers of the law.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL thought the Bill would require great consideration. It involved revenue, and he thought there would be great difficulty in carrying out practically the principle of assessment as regards Counties.

A long discussion followed on the principle of assessment of Schools, and finally progress was reported. We do not report the discussion on this bill, as the subject will come up again.

Mr. CONNELL said he had understood the Attorney General to say that ample arrangements had been made with regard to defence in the County of Carleton. But from the information he had received, he was led to believe that nothing whatever had been done. There was very great alarm in the County, and a number of people were selling out their property.