

was well qualified for the office, and that they had all felt then that he should have it. But Mr. Wilmot had retired from the Government without the office. If it had been necessary to fill up the office immediately, the Government could have done it. But if the Government could show that the duties of the office had been conducted as efficiently, without an Auditor General, as before, he believed the country, who did not care so much who filled the office as how its duties were performed. Instead of four clerks being employed, as when the late Mr. Partelow (who, as they all knew, for several years, had not been able to attend to the office) was Auditor General, there have been only two. For years before the death of that gentleman, Mr. Johnston, the chief clerk, had done all the duties of the office. He wished to do justice to Mr. Johnston, who had been most assiduous to his duty and had proved himself a faithful and efficient officer. He challenged the mover of the Amendment to point out one single case where the interest of the country had suffered by the non-appointment of an Auditor General. It was all very well to quote despatches, but let him point to one fact. Would the non-appointment of an Auditor General be sufficient in the eyes of this House to condemn the Government? He thought not.

The Attorney General proceeded to the charge against the Government, that they had not appointed a Solicitor General, and challenged the mover of the Amendment to show where the public interests had suffered in consequence. During the absence of the then Attorney General (Mr. Allen) (and here he would remark that no appointment had given more entire satisfaction than that of Judge Allen) provision was made for the conducting of the Criminal and Crown business of the country, and he could assure the House that, neither in the case of the absence of Mr. Allen, or of his own, had that business suffered in the hands of the legal gentlemen to whom it was entrusted. He would state that no Government that had ever been formed in the Province—he did not ask, and he did not expect their sympathy, when he made the statement—had so many difficulties and embarrassments of all kinds to contend against as the present Government had at its first formation. It was said that they had proscribed every one who was not an Anti-Confederate. But was it not absolutely necessary that it should be formed on an Anti-Confederate basis? He would ask every man who had taken a bold stand on the question that agitated the country, who resisted the Quebec Scheme that aimed at the independence of the Province, if it was absolutely necessary to form the Government on that basis? Then a cry was raised against the Government when they did not fill up their numbers, when they did not appoint a Solicitor General, that they were afraid to open a constituency. But did any one doubt that if the Government had consented to have taken the hon. member of St. John, on his left, (Mr. Wetmore) into the Government, that he would have been returned? Did any one doubt, if the Solicitor Generalship had been offered to the hon. member of York, on his right, (Mr. Fraser) that he could have been returned? Or if it had been

offered to the hon. member of King's (Mr. Otty) that he could have been returned? Or did any doubt that any one of these gentlemen would have done honor to the position? But at the time of the formation of the Government, it was felt that the North Shore was entitled to more representation and the office would have been filled by a representative of that district but for the basis on which the Government was formed. That was the fact, and all he could tell the House, and he thought the explanation sufficient, particularly when the member of York (Mr. Fisher) could not show where the interests of the country had suffered.

There was another thing. It was stated the Government were guilty of betraying the public trust and stealing the public property. When they heard the first account of the business, hon. members might have thought that it was a thousand times worse than the first great land stealing transaction. It had gone into the back settlements that the Government had been plundering the country; that they had entered into a conspiracy with Mr. Gibson to rob the land. A more diabolical attempt to injure a Government had never taken place. The mover of the Amendment knew well that the vilest injustice had been done to the Government by the accusations preferred against them. He knew the truth of the matter. What the Government had done was simply to carry out the intention of the late Government. When they came into power they found that an order of survey had been made, for which survey Mr. Gibson had paid \$300 for a certain tract of land. It was said that Gibson got the Government to repeal the law in his favor, but the sale of the land was open and notorious. It was published in the *Royal Gazette*, and it was competent for every man who pleased to come in, and compete. The hon. member of York knew all the truth about the transaction.

Mr. FISHER. He knew nothing about it.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. Then more shame for him.

Mr. FISHER. All he had said in reference to the transaction the other day was, that the repeal of a regulation should be as notorious as the regulation itself.

ATTORNEY GENERAL. But the hon. member must have known, residing as he did in Fredericton, and having access to the Crown Land Office, and he must have known when he heard the Government charged with collusion and fraud with Gibson, that they were charged falsely. Even if no repeal of the regulation had been made everybody must have seen in the *Royal Gazette* the advertisement of the sale of the land in 100 acre lots, and that was as public a notice as could be made. Was it necessary to make repeal? He wanted to show that the order, of which so much had been said, of that pending negotiations for the construction of the Inter-Colonial Railway, none of the Crown Lands of the Province shall be sold except with the condition of actual settlement attached, had repealed itself. Did not every one know that the law regarding the Inter-Colonial Railway had ceased to be on the Statute Book—that it was the same as if it had never existed? Did not every

one know that it had repealed itself and fallen dead? The condition that rendered the regulation necessary had ceased to exist. The transaction was open and above board. The sale of lands was published in the *Gazette*, and every man must have known that it was the intention to sell these lands publicly. He would ask the House then if it was true that the Government had given Gibson lands secretly—if he had given him land without competition?

Mr. CONNELL. Did not Mr. Gibson hold a three years' license of these very lands?

ATTORNEY GENERAL. So much the worse for the late Government. You that supported the late Government would wish to fasten their sins on us.

Mr. GILBERT. How many acres were sold to Mr. Gibson?

ATTORNEY GENERAL. Fifteen thousand in all. It was necessary to argue this question, he would say while he would give every facility to the man who desired to settle in the country, they ought to look at the other side, and consider that Mr. Gibson had mills that cut twelve millions annually. The whole country was interested in that manufacture. Let them not look at this question with hasty prejudice, but let calm reason work; and let them foster and cherish the manufacturing interests of the country. He would ask if the people of the Nashwaak were not greatly interested in Mr. Gibson's operations? He had besides been told that the land was worthless for settlement and not much worth for lumbering purposes, unless large sums are spent to open up streams. Mr. Gibson was a man that ought to be encouraged. He was informed his operations extended to Carleton and Victoria. The inhabitants of Carleton derived great benefit from those operations.

Mr. LINDSAY.—The people of Carleton found fault with it.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.—It might be that the great lumberers found fault; but would he (Mr. Lindsay) tell him that the farmers and back settlers complained who found sale for their oats and their hay, and their produce? He then proceeded to say that the Government were bound to carry out the acts of their predecessors, and as regarded this transaction they were in no way to blame. It had been no hole and corner business, and he did not think the House would say that the Government had forfeited the confidence of the country. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) had said that the Government had changed their mind upon the question of Confederation, and that the paragraph in the Address relating to Union involved the submittal by them of some scheme. But he would tell the hon. member that the Government would not submit a scheme of Confederation to the House. They were as strongly opposed as ever they were to the Quebec Scheme, and would maintain their attitude of opposition to it. He regretted that some of their friends who had fought the battle against that scheme, had, for reasons best known to themselves, gone over to the other side. He hoped they would justify to their own minds the course they had taken. He could not see how any man could, when he saw all the influences at work, shut their eyes to the fact, that if this vote of confidence was carried, and the Government thrown out, that the