

oil, if elected or appointed to a seat at Ottawa, shall vacate his seat in the Local Legislature. An Act of this nature has been passed in Nova Scotia, and it is of some importance that it should also pass here. As to our power to legislate on matters of this kind, I think it is clearly given to us in section 129 of the Imperial Act, where it is said that all powers and authorities which we hold at the time of Union, except as otherwise provided by the Act, shall remain and continue in force as if the Act had not been made, showing clearly that we have the power to amend our constitution if we see fit. The passing of this Bill is called for, as an act of duty to those who may be left here when the Union is consummated, and may have left this House to represent the people at Ottawa; for there are many persons in the country who will readily come forward and here be schooled for higher positions in the Dominion, who, if dual representation was permitted, would be entirely shut out from political life. This is the idea of the Bill, and I believe it commends itself to the minds of every honorable member in this House.

Mr. SMITH.—I am not at all opposed to the principle laid down in this Bill, but I should like to see the Attorney General in his place, for I want to ask him a few questions. It is said that he is one of those who are perfectly willing to represent the people at Ottawa, and at the same time hold on to a seat in this House, especially if £600 is attached to it. This idea, I believe, he put forth publicly here in Fredericton, and it is said there are others who are quite willing to do the same thing. In Canada they have taken no steps to prevent dual representation; indeed I see that the leading minds in the Government there seem to foster the idea of holding seats in both Houses. I should certainly like to know the sentiments of the members of the Government on the question, as to whether we can legislate in this matter. We are now pursuing a novel course. Here we have a man, who is said to be a Senator of the Dominion of Canada, whose name is in the Proclamation, yet he is still holding his seat here, is a member of the Government and Chief Commissioner of Public Works. I don't see how the Government can reconcile that to the provisions of the Act. The names of the Senators for Canada are given and published in the papers, but here we can get no information whatever. The Government are as reticent as ever, and won't tell us anything that is going on. To judge by their actions they don't know what they are going to do at all. The Attorney General told us he was

going to introduce a Bill for a change in the Magistrates' Courts. He went to the expense of getting the Bill printed, and it has been sent to the people, but all at once we are told that it is not going to be brought in. This is a most extraordinary course to pursue; I never heard the like of it before. But it seems that all who are connected with this question of Union are determined to mystify and keep the people in suspense. I see now that Mr. D'Arcy McGee has put forth, here just before the Union, is consummated, that after all Confederation is not quite the thing, and that shortly we must inevitably settle down into a Legislative Union. We are hardly entered into one Union before these men want to pull down the structure they have raised, and erect another. He says also, that every man must be called out to drill, and thus every man is to be made a soldier, as is done in Prussia, where every man, prince and peasant alike, has to serve two or three years at military practice. I regard the present as perilous times for our people, the clouds of trouble seem gathering very thick about us, but I hope that some thing will yet occur to prevent the impending evils. As to this measure I think the delegates should have provided for it in the Imperial Act, but it seems as though they had made up their minds to hold on to their offices here and go to Ottawa, as well, if they could get the chance. The people, however, have shown their opposition to such a course, and so at the last the Government make up their mind to provide against it. I think the measure is a good one, and therefore I shall give it my support.

Mr. JOHNSON. As one of the delegates I could not have agreed to make any provision like this binding by Imperial Statute. The delegates had no power to lay down what course should be pursued, for it was a privilege of the people to say whether their representatives should be allowed to hold a seat in the General as well as the Local Legislature. But whilst I could not agree to have it laid down in the Act, yet I had very decided feelings as to the requirement of such an Act as this; for there may arise an occasion when the Local and General Parliaments are in conflict, and to have the twelve or fifteen men who represent the Province at Ottawa to come back and take their seat here, might prove disastrous to the best interests of the country. I have felt all along that it would be putting a power into their hands which they should not possess. To avoid any such difficulties this Bill has been introduced, and I am sure that it will meet with the approbation of the people.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY.—It is a great pity that my hon. friend from Westmorland

should be so much affected by what Mr. McGee may think or say, but I am under the impression that he might be much more so if he would take to heart the language used by a candidate on the other side in Nova Scotia, who, if report is true, has given vent to his feelings by the use of language which is to be deprecated by every loyal subject in British America. I do not think, however, that in this House we should be guided by what Mr. McGee or Mr. Howe may say in their private capacity. When my hon. friend gets to Ottawa, for they say he is sure to go there, if Mr. McGee brings up a measure to make the people of the Dominion spend a certain time every year in military drill, he can then stand up and oppose it; but it is not necessary to bring the matter in here. The fact is, Mr. McGee has an idea that the militia of the Confederation should be made more efficient, and the same idea has been expressed by the Administrator of the Government here. But there was a time, Mr. Chairman, when the people of this Province had to turn out and drill for three or four days every year. It may have proved a hardship for them to do it sometimes, but I greatly mistake the feelings of our people if they would not be willing to do it again to put themselves in a position to defend their firesides from the attack of an invader. But my hon. friend is also very much tried too, because Mr. McGee says, that we shall ultimately have to come to a Legislative Union. But if I mistake not my hon. friend made this very thing one of the points of his objections to the Quebec Scheme, and laid it down as the ground of his belief why the Union contemplated should not be gone into. And as to the question now before us, dual representation, as it is called, there is an impression generally abroad that the hon. member from Westmorland favored the idea; I know it was so believed in his own County. Now, I never had but one idea on this matter, and that was that it was incompatible with the interests of the country that a man should hold seats in both Houses. I believe this principle will become general all over the Dominion. My hon. friend speaks of the withdrawal of a Bill, a draft of which was before the House, and which the Attorney General had contemplated carrying through, as a great crime. Why, Mr. Chairman, after consulting with our friends on that subject, we found that there was no possibility of passing it, and so it was withdrawn. I don't see anything very dreadful in that. But he says the Attorney General must have changed his ideas very much if he is willing the present Bill should pass. The Attorney General is not present, and therefore he cannot answer as to his ideas on this question, but I think I remember a very important occasion on which the opinions of my hon. friend were said to have changed. It was said