

did I not think so I am sure I would not so speak.

There are other hon. members who get credit for knowing a great deal about finance, and without wishing to depreciate them, or recommend myself, I feel quite satisfied there is not one among them who can discharge the duties better than I can.

As I made allusion, yesterday, to the Inter-colonial Railway, and it has been talked about considerably during this debate, and has been held out as a great inducement for us to go into Confederation, I will venture, although a little out of connexion, to read an extract from the *Toronto Globe*, which speaks Mr. George Brown's sentiments on that question:—

"Upper Canadians have not suffered enough, it appears, in the estimation of Upper Canadian members of the Cabinet, from being tied to one poor Eastern Province, it must have three more added to its already heavy burdens. One Legislature is not a sufficiently cumbersome, unwieldy and expensive body, but must add to it the representatives of three other communities, each section with varying local interests, and all pulling at the same purse. And to show what we may look for in the future, we are to pay four-twelfths of the cost of a Railway to unite us to these new allies, and to keep the road running besides. Truly a charming scheme to be proposed by a retrenchment Government, whose sole aim was to be the reduction of expenditure, and the correction of abuses in administration. New burdens of an enormous amount are to be imposed upon the people of Upper Canada, a Railway job to be undertaken, likely to be as disastrous and disgraceful as the Grand Trunk, and an already unwieldy political system to be encumbered three fold; all that Messrs. Sicotte and Sandfield McDonald may get rid of the difficulties with which their Government is surrounded."

SECOND EXTRACT.

"There is a refreshing coolness in the demand that Canada shall pay for the construction of a road, which is professedly designed to draw away trade from its great estuary. We have been building up the St. Lawrence at immense expense, and have had very hard work to compete with the Hudson and Erie Canals. According to the views of the late Hon. Mr. Merritt, steamship lines were alone needed to secure the object we desire. The ministry purpose, however, to withdraw the steamships from the St. Lawrence. If this could be done it would be an act of suicide in Canada to take part in the scheme. As it cannot be done it is simply an absurdity. It may be difficult to escape from pledges given to the representatives of the Lower Provinces, but the members of the Cabinet may rely upon it, that they will have their reward for the abandonment or postponement of the measure in the approbation of their constituents and the Province at large."

Another extract from the *Globe* of Toronto:

"We have a debt of seventy millions and a deficiency of three or four mil-

lions, created by undertaking works which have failed to pay any return for the cost of construction. But no enterprise, the burden of which we have assumed, comes anything near the Inter-colonial, in the poverty of its promised results. It will not secure the profitable settlement of an acre of land; it will not help our trade; it will not pay its own running expenses; the few barren acres at the East are to get \$50,000 a year of our money, while half a continent is to get a few words addressed to the Colonial Minister."

Mr. FISHER.—When was that written?

Mr. GILLMOR.—In 1862.

Mr. FISHER.—Mr. Brown has changed his mind since that time.

Mr. GILLMOR.—Those men broke faith once in reference to the Inter-colonial Railroad, and could do it again. Mr. Brown changed his views on this question because he wanted to get representation by population, and when in Confederation, the Inter-colonial Railroad depends upon a majority of the Federal Parliament. It is not a part of the Constitution of the Confederated Provinces.

Mr. FISHER.—It is to be secured by Act of the Imperial Parliament.

Mr. GILLMOR.—There can be no Act of any Parliament which can compel the Federal Legislature to expend twenty millions of dollars, unless a majority of that Parliament agree to it. It would be a novel idea of constitutional liberty to allow the Imperial Parliament to vote money which the Colonies had to pay.

Mr. FISHER.—It would be perfectly constitutional if we make that in the agreement.

Mr. WILMOT.—The British Government agree to guarantee the amount necessary to build the Road.

Mr. NEEDHAM.—They guaranteed that before, but I promise you they will not send the money until they get security.

Hon. Mr. GILLMOR.—I will now read an extract from a speech made in Canada, to show why Mr. Brown was willing to go to such an expenditure for a non-paying railroad. It was in order to get representation by population:

"After many years of political strife between the two Canadas, the principle of representation equal for each of the Canadas was fully established. The Hon. Mr. Brown has been for a long time trying to effect a change in that part of the Constitution of the Canadas. Every effort having failed to effect that, he, as a last resort, adopted Confederation as the only means of effecting his darling object. Had he been able to bring that about without asking the aid of the Maritime Provinces, we should never have heard any thing of Confederation. Is it wise for the Lower Provinces to go in and help Mr. Brown and his followers break up an arrangement solemnly entered into between the two Canadas? Will it not be the means of forcing a million of Lower Canadians into an arrangement contrary to their wishes, and consequently they will not work harmoniously in the new order of things, and that number can make some trouble."

Mr. FISHER.—What authority is that?

Mr. NEEDHAM.—I will endorse it.

Mr. GILLMOR.—My hon. friend, Mr. Wilmot, occupies a singular position; he has heard the charges brought against the Government, and all the charges which have been made were for acts done or omitted while Mr. Wilmot was in the Government; and yet in his speech he never alluded to one of them. I was surprised, for he was equally with myself and my colleagues responsible for all that had been done up to the date of his resignation, and he was even more responsible, being an old politician and one of the gentlemen called upon by His Excellency to form a Government. He said he was offered the office which I hold. I was anxious he should have taken it, and it was only at the last moment that I accepted it. My friend said that he soon discovered how things were going on, and he was not going to take the office, and set "Jack in the Box." He has no right to charge me with being the mere instrument of any man or body of men. He knows me too well to imagine any such thing, and if he wishes to convey any such impression, he does me great injustice.

Mr. WILMOT.—I did not charge you with any improper conduct. I differed with the leader of the Government, and my hon. friend agreed with him.

Mr. GILLMOR.—I have differed from the Attorney General, and I have agreed with him as matters appeared to my mind, but are we to come before the country, having been sworn to secrecy, and state what we have differed upon. When I went into the Government, although I knew little about the duties of an Executive Councillor, yet I knew that as long as I remained there I was responsible for every act, whether I agreed personally to it or not, and I am bound to come before the House and the country and sustain my colleagues and the Government on all their acts. I think the impression has gone abroad in the country that we have had a great deal of discord; such is not correct. There has been, I think, a great deal of harmony—more than I anticipated on entering the Government. It is only reasonable to conclude that nine men will on many matters entertain different opinions.

My hon. friend says he had written out his resignation at the close of the Session. I never saw it. I think he did go out of the Council Chamber once, in a pet, and wrote out what he called his resignation, but I was told he tore it up, and was back again in fifteen minutes as pleasant as ever.

Mr. WILMOT.—Did you not know I made an arrangement to leave the Government at the close of the Session?

Mr. GILLMOR.—Why do you ask me about an arrangement made before I came in? If I had the making of an arrangement, I would not buy any man to come into the Government by the promise of an office.

Mr. WILMOT.—Do you charge me with being bought.

Mr. GILLMOR.—You say you would not go into the Government and take the office of Provincial Secretary, but you did go into the Government on a promise that you was to get the office of Auditor General. No man should stipulate for any reward of that kind on going into a Government. I did not do so. I thought, under the circumstances, it was my duty to help all I could, and do the best I could, to help along the Government of the country.