

Mr. P. SINCLAIR.—The subject before this hon. House is one of great importance. The Home Government seem determined to press their demand for not seeing why they should make this demand upon us just now, more than at any other time. If it was just and fair that they should pay this salary up to the present time, it is right that they should continue to do so, for the burden which they imposed upon us is just as heavy as it ever was. They took away our lands to pay the salaries of their officers in days gone by, which has kept this country in a state of poverty ever since, and has almost caused the people to rise in revolt against British rule. We find that this Colony has been put to an expense of £15,000 on account of troubles arising out of the treatment we have received at the hands of the British Parliament, and now they insist upon our paying the salary of an officer whom they themselves have appointed. We should use all the power we can command to discountenance such proceedings, and we should state more clearly and particularly, the usage we have received, and the manner in which our lands have been granted away—instead of paying our Governor's salary, we should receive a certain sum from the Imperial Government, for the purpose of purchasing the proprietary lands, that we may be placed in the same circumstances as all the neighboring Colonies. It is the duty of the Legislature to stand firm upon the question, and show the state of the Colony, and the manner in which we have been robbed of our lands, to the Home Government, for the purpose of having our grievances redressed, if possible. Our case is truly a hard one.

Hon. Mr. H. WILSON.—I am of opinion that this move of the Imperial Government is a sort of side wind to work this Colony into Confederation, and that the demand amounts to this, that unless we join the other Colonies, we must pay our own Governor. We may be forced to pay this salary, but it is better to do so, than to go into Confederation. A great question, similar to our own, the Irish Grants—occupies the minds of the statesmen of Great Britain at the present time. This Colony, above all the others, has shown a great wish, in all cases, to carry out the Royal Instructions, and there was an agreement made in 1851, that in consideration of the losses which this Colony has sustained, the Imperial Government would pay the salary of the Lieutenant Governor. It has been shown very clearly, that this Island has been placed in an anomalous position by the Home Government. We know that the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, was very much in favor of Confederation, and this is one reason why we are now asked to pay the demand made upon us. I think any Government would be remiss in their duty, if they did not resist this unjust pressure which has been brought to bear upon us, and I do hope that our rights will be sustained. As long as our Land Question remains unsettled, and as long as the Imperial Government refuse to give a guarantee for our loan, to arrange for the purchase of the Proprietary Lands, this demand will be most unreasonable and unwarrantable. I cannot understand the movements of the British Government in regard to the means of getting this Colony joined to the Confederation, for it has been clearly shown to them, that a very large majority of our people are against it. Why should we be asked to pay the salary of our Lieutenant Governor on the one hand, and on the other, that we shall receive \$800,000 if we unite with Canada? At present the British Government will not sanction coercive measures in buying up the proprietors' lands, but we are told that if we enter Confederation measures, coercive or otherwise, would be carried into effect for the purpose of giving us free land. As we have neither Crown Lands nor Minerals, from which to draw a Revenue, the demand made upon us is unfair, and therefore if we are compelled to pay our Governor we will appoint him ourselves. I quite agree with the remarks made by the hon. member for Murray Harbor on this subject, and I think we should send some delegate for the purpose of representing our claims, rather than yield to the demand.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—It appears to me, Sir, that there must be a misunderstanding between the Imperial Parliament and Her Majesty's Ministers in regard to the position of affairs in this Colony. Many years ago, before the Responsible Government was introduced, and when it was intended that this system of Government should be applied to the whole of the British North American Colonies, the British Government contemplated giving it to them all on the same terms. They were to have all the Crown Lands, and all other sources of revenue belonging to the Crown, but each Colony was to maintain its own Governor. The Home Government did cede the Crown Lands with all mines and minerals to the other Colonies, and the latter agreed to pay the Civil List Bill. But this Colony was never given possession of its lands, and a remonstrance was sent to the Home Government against paying the salary of the Lieutenant Governor, because we did not get the same privileges as the other Provinces. This was successful, and the salary was paid from that time by the Home Government. We should show them that we are not now to be put in the position agreed upon when we received Responsible Government, if this demand is enforced. If an enquiry into the state of affairs in this Colony took place, these matters would be clearly brought to light. Mr. Bright has asked the question, "how is it that a sum of money should be given to Prince Edward Island?" and perhaps this question may lead to an enquiry into the condition in which the Colony has been placed by the Imperial Government. We can easily see what an awkward position the Home Government would be placed in, if this enquiry were made. If all the lands of this Island were to be put in possession of its people, as they should be, we could afford to pay our Governor's salary. This would be a great gain to the Colony; but we never obtained possession of any of these lands. But it seems that the Crown had a particular right to the lands of this Colony, from the time it was wrested from the French by force of arms. It appears that the King of France at that time had personal and private possession of the lands of this Island, and as he afterwards ceded them over to King George III., they became the private property of the King of Great Britain and Ireland. I can prove this from a pamphlet published in Halifax, N. S.

This being the case, the Crown, certainly, had a right to dispose of these lands to whom it thought proper. Although the Crown had its representatives in this Colony, from its secession downwards, the Constitution was not fully carried out, because the Governor acted as the Representative of the Crown, only. By-and-by, letters patent were issued, to give the people the benefit of a Legislature; so they, then, for the first time, really became British Colonists. These lands were therefore, held by the proprietors as private property, received direct from the Crown. When the Legislature of this Colony met for the first time, they could not do away with these private grants, but they could make the Proprietors to make the terms upon which they obtained them, and therefore, some of the lands were ceded to the Colony. Nova Scotia had been free from the very first, and her lands became the property of the Government. Not so in this Colony; we are treated as if this Island had not been a part of the British Dominions. As we have been treated worse than any of the other Colonies, it is unjust that we should be called upon by the Home Government to pay the salary of our Lieutenant Governor. The Imperial Government are under the impression that these lands are not, by right, the property of this Colony, and view the whole matter in a different light to that by which we look upon it. But they acknowledged that there was an injustice done to this Colony, by their paying the salary of our Governor up to the present time. Why, then, do they now ask us to pay that salary ourselves? I should like to see this whole matter clearly stated by this Committee in the Address to be forwarded to the Imperial Government. We should show that we have never stood in the same position as the other Colonies since Responsible Government was granted to these Provinces, and that the Imperial Government have denied us the right of inquiring whether the grantees are bona fide owners of the lands of this Colony or not. When they are shown that they agreed to place all the Colonies on the same footing, they will perhaps see the injustice done to this Island in not giving our government possession of the lands. These views must be clearly laid before the Imperial Parliament.

The Speaker then took the Chair, the Chairman reported progress, and asked for leave to sit again.

I. OXENHAM, Reporter.

Afternoon Session.

A message was received from the Legislative Council stating that they had passed the "Act relating to the Savings Bank," the "Act to amend the Charlottetown Incorporation Act," and the "Act for raising a Revenue."

On motion of Mr. McLennan, the Bill to amend certain Acts therein mentioned relating to Summerside was read a third time and passed.

DESPATCHES.

On motion of Mr. Reilly, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the further consideration of His Excellency's message.

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

The debate on the Despatch relating to the payment of the Governor's salary was resumed.

Mr. G. SINCLAIR.—Mr. Chairman, I think we shall be very much of the same opinion on this subject; we shall not agree to pay the Governor's salary without remonstrating and raising every possible argument against it. The Colonial Minister may think it is

hard to make Prince Edward Island an exception to the general rule in this respect, but it was made an exception in other particulars. The Lieutenant Governor is an Imperial officer and should be paid out of the funds which are to pay Imperial officers, but the British Government handed over no funds to us for the purpose. They took the public lands, which should have been a source of revenue to the Colony, to pay their public officers whom they should have been obliged to pension, if they had not paid them in this way. It may seem hard that British tax-payers have to suffer for the faults of others, but we know that a large portion of the national debt was incurred in doing what the present tax-payers believe to have been wrong, and they have as good a right to pay our Governor's salary as to pay the interest on the national debt. If the British Government refused to pay this salary now, it would be a violation of the compact entered into when Responsible Government was granted to us; we do not wish them to pay it as a favor but as a right.

Mr. CAMERON.—Mr. Chairman, there appears to be a unanimous opinion in favor of the resolution before the House, and I think it is right that it should be so, for our Colony differs from the sister Colonies in many ways. We have been deprived of the revenue which should accrue from public lands, we have neither mines nor minerals, and I think, in the absence of such sources of wealth, it would be rather harsh treatment for the British Government to call upon us to pay the salary of the Lieutenant Governor. It appears that it is only very recently that such a demand has been made. In 1853, the Secretary for the Colonies stated that he had no reason to suppose that the Imperial Government had any intention of withholding the payment of the Governor's salary, and if it was right that it should be paid then, I think it is so still, for no great change has taken place in the Colony—the proprietors still retain possession of their estates, notwithstanding the efforts which have been made by the Legislature, and the willingness of the people to purchase the land from them.

Hon. Mr. McLAULAY.—Mr. Chairman, I think the Government have a right not only to ask the British Government to pay His Excellency's salary, but to pay him a little more than he has hitherto received. I have never been able to see any reason why the Lieutenant Governor of this Island should not receive as high a salary as the Governor of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. We have a right to call upon the British Government to pay the salary of the Lieutenant Governor, for they left us without any public land, without a stick to build a ship of war, or any sources of revenue.

Mr. BRECKEN.—I agree, Mr. Chairman, with the remarks which have been made on this subject, for I think we have peculiar claims upon the Mother Country, and however hon. members may differ about the way in which the said question should be settled, they will all coincide in the opinion that a gross act of injustice was done when the lands of this Colony were granted away, and that the British Government has a right to make some reparation of the injury inflicted on the people of this Island by that act. The soil of a new country should belong to its pioneers, and when the soil of this Island was taken to satisfy the claims real or imaginary of soldiers and sailors, which they had upon the British Government, we have a right to expect some small compensation to be made by paying the Governor's salary, especially as the Imperial authorities say they cannot interfere with the rights of the proprietors. Some two or three years ago a Despatch, similar to the one now before the House, was received, and a very able memorial was laid before the Imperial Government remonstrating against the injustice of the demand, and I think it is the duty of this House to reiterate these remonstrances. If the land of this Island had been the property of the people, we should have been in a better position to pay the Governor's salary; at any rate, we should have been sared a long loud agitation which has been productive of a vast amount of mischief, and has materially retarded the prosperity of the Colony. I think, Sir, it is our duty to remonstrate, and if the Imperial Government turns a deaf ear to our remonstrances, we shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing that we have done our duty.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—Mr. Chairman, we are not in the same position as the other Colonies, but, at the same time, it would be well to know whether the British Government consider that we are in the same position or not. I endeavored to show this matter up this morning, and in quoting from a speech of the Hon. Mr. Wilkins, I made a mistake in reference to dates, but I will now read the extract. I may say that the history of this Island is so closely connected with that of Nova Scotia, that it would be well to consider what difference there is between us:

"This country was originally known by the name of Acadia, and was in the possession of the French at one time, and of the English at another—was long, in fact, debatable ground. The French at last made the settlement of Port Royal, now called Annapolis, they fortified it in the early part of the eighteenth century, but an expedition was fitted out by a person of the name of Nicholson, from Boston, who came over and forced the French garrison to capitulate, consequently the Province was, at that time, conquered by the British. In 1713, soon after the conquest, by the Treaty of Utrecht, Louis XIV assigned Acadia to Queen Anne, of England, and her heirs forever. I have belied the language of the Treaty, it is striking and plain: 'Yielded and made over to the Queen of Great Britain and her heirs forever.' From that time to this Nova Scotia has continued to belong to the British Crown, and the first enquiry we meet is this, what was the effect of that conquest and subsequent cession by Louis XIV to Queen Anne? What was her title? Her title was absolute, higher than the title any man in England possessed to his estate—higher than the title possessed by the Prince of Wales when he purchased the other day a hunting-ground in England. The Prince of Wales held his estate from the Queen, and he may forfeit it to Her Majesty, but that was not the case with the gift to Queen Anne. It was properly transferred and belonged absolutely to Queen Anne, of England, and her heirs forever. For thirty-four years after this, it remained the property of the Queen and her heirs, and she could do with it just as she pleased—just as any man in this House might do with an estate belonging to him—he might put a tenant on it and regulate the covenants under which the tenant should hold it. In 1747, it came into the hands of George the Second, and he being desirous of having it settled by English subjects, promised the people of England who would undertake the settlement of the country, that he would give them a British Constitution in miniature."

Now, what I wish to show is this, that the land of Nova Scotia actually belonged to the Queen of England, and was made over to proprietors, yet their titles were proved to be void. We have the same right to render the titles of the proprietors void, but as the British Government will not allow us to establish courts for that purpose, they have a right to pay the Governor's salary.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—This Island was not ceded to Great Britain until 1759, nearly a century after the death of Queen Anne. The fact that Nova Scotia fell to Queen Anne, as a princely gift, has nothing to do with this Island.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—As I understand the matter, this Island was nominally ceded to the Sovereign for the time being, but the Sovereign is a trustee for the people over whom he or she may happen to reign. I do not see the propriety of my hon. friend quoting from the speech of Mr. Wilkins, for he is liable to make mistakes as well as any person else, and if he lays down the doctrine that this Island was ceded for the benefit of the Sovereign, he has made a mistake. In looking over the names of the persons to whom the lands of this Island were granted, I fail to find any who performed any very meritorious act, anything of importance or prominence, that would entitle them to such a reward at the hands of the British Government. It appears that the lands of this Colony were granted away from private and personal motives, and this question has ever since been a source of trouble to us, it has constantly been coming up, not because the people love agitation, but because of the unjust way in which the Island was granted. We are all agreed that there never was a more unjust act than the granting away of the lands of the Colony, taking away from us what should have been a source of revenue to the country. We are dealt with more rigorously than any other Colony—we were charged for the pay of the Troops, and everybody will acknowledge, that the necessity for their presence here would never have arisen but for the action of the British Government in granting away the lands of the Colony. When the conference took place at Quebec, in 1865, this subject was brought up, and it was the general opinion that the payment of the salary

of the Lieutenant Governor of this Island should be continued, even though we should unite with the other Provinces. I think if this matter was properly represented to the people of England, they would not think there was anything unfair in it. I think we should remonstrate again and again, but what the consequence will be if both this Government and the British Government refuse to pay a Governor, we must leave for the future to decide. Within the last few days a change has taken place in Her Majesty's Councils, and perhaps those now in power will look upon this matter in a different light, and either agree to pay the Governor's salary, or place enough money in the hands of the Government of this Colony to lay out the proprietors' estates.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—It is one of our misfortunes that the people of England cannot properly understand our real state, they cannot understand why we should not be more prosperous while we pay only what they consider a nominal rent. Many persons who came to this Island from England thought they were going to make their fortunes on this Island, but the general result has been that they were totally disappointed. What course should be pursued in order to make a right impression on the minds of the British people in regard to our true state, I cannot say; but I would suggest that the Committee who draw up an address on the subject should point out clearly the fact, that all that this Colony costs the British Government is nothing more than moderate interest on the money belonging to the Colony, which the British Government misappropriated. Another fact which should be brought to their notice is, that while the other Colonies derive a considerable portion of their revenue from their mines and their timber, we have none of the former, and very little of the latter. If the disadvantages under which we labor were seen by the British Government, as they are felt by us, they would never force us to pay this amount.

The Committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

On motion of Hon. Attorney General, the Bill to amend the Act relating to Education was read a third time and passed.

House again in Committee on the consideration of Despatches.

Hon. Mr. CALLECK.—Respecting this Despatch, Mr. Chairman, it appears to me that the demand is an unjust one towards this Colony. The British Government granted the lands of this Colony to their favorites in lieu of pensions or salaries, and we are paying the heirs of those who should have been pensioned from the British Treasury. When the lands were granted, a contract was entered into, and although in that contract it was not stated that the British Government would pay the salary of the Lieutenant Governor for all time to come, yet when we took upon ourselves to pay the Civil List, it was understood that it would be paid as long as we remained an appendage of the British Government. If we had land from which we might derive a revenue, we would have a right to pay the Governor's salary, but so long as absentee proprietors, the heirs of those who should have been paid from the Imperial Treasury, monopolize these lands, we have a right to refuse to pay it. I think it is our duty to refuse to pay this as long as we possibly can, and if we are finally compelled to accede to the demands of the British Government in this respect, we can still say it is unjust.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Mr. Chairman, I stated last evening the reason why we should remonstrate against the payment of this salary, and I think the reasons which were assigned in the Despatch received in 1865, in answer to the Joint Address, were not founded upon the real facts of the case. I will read the Despatch:

"DOWNING STREET.

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, number 20, of 7th April, enclosing a Joint Address to the Queen from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, praying that Her Majesty will be pleased to recommend to Parliament a continuance of the annual provision for the salary of the Lieutenant Governor.

"I have duly laid this Address before the Queen, but advertising to the very favorable representations as to the resources of the Island, made by both branches of the Legislature in their Address which accompanied your Despatch, No. 37, of the 3d of April, I am unable to advise any departure from the decision of Her Majesty's Government which I communicated to you in my Despatch of 8th February."

"EDWARD CARDWELL."

The Address referred to in this Despatch was the Joint Address in reference to Confederation, and in that Address there was something in reference to the prosperous state of the Colony. I will read an extract from that Address:

"That if the relative circumstances of Canada and this Island rendered a Union practicable, the injustice of the terms agreed to by the Quebec Conference would prevent their being ratified by the Island. Without entering into full details on this branch of the subject, or advertising to the fact that by the proposed terms of the Confederation, we are called upon to transfer to the confederate exchequer a steadily increasing revenue, and that too under our comparatively low tariff for a fixed and settled annual subsidy of a greatly diminished amount, we would briefly notice some of the objectionable features of the Report of the Committee of the Colonial Minister referred to, and it would seem that the British Government pay particular attention to everything from Prince Edward Island, when they fall back upon an Address on Confederation as an argument against the payment of the Governor's salary. We are now again called upon to pay, not the present Governor's salary, but to be prepared to pay his successor. I consider there was a regular compact entered into when we were agitating for Responsible Government,—the Legislature passed a Bill at that time to increase the Governor's salary five hundred pounds, and the British Government agreed to pay this additional amount, if the Island would pay its Civil List, and I do not think it is right to call upon us now to pay that amount. If our present Lieutenant Governor remains until the Legislature agrees to pay a Governor's salary, he will be here—I will not say too long, because I believe we might go further and fare worse—but he will be very old before he leaves. The Joint Committee, in their Address in 1865, went very fully into the matter; in fact, it appears that the British Government could find nothing in the Address on which to found an argument against it, but alluded to a former Address on Confederation.

Resolution agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Messrs. Hensley, Coles, Laird, Howlan, and Messrs. McNeill and G. Sinclair, were appointed to form part of a Joint Committee of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly to prepare an Address on the subject.

BALDERSTON, Reporter.

Hon. Attorney General presented the Appropriation Bill for 1868, which was read the first time,—when the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the second reading of the said Bill, which was read through clause by clause.

Mr. G. Sinclair in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair. The Bill was reported agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

House adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow.

R. GORDON, Reporter.

TUESDAY, April 21st.

Morning Session.

The Hon. Attorney General moved, seconded by Mr. Arseault, that the engrossed Bill, intitled "An Act to amend the law relating to the recovery of Small Debts, and for other purposes therein mentioned," be now read a third time.

The Hon. Mr. McLAULAY moved in amendment to the question, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Laird, that the words "now be left out, and the words 'this day three months' added at the end thereof."

And the question being put on the amendment the House divided, as follows:—

Yeas—Hons. McLAULAY, LAIRD, HOWLAN, HENDERSON, HAVILAND; Messrs. P. SINCLAIR, BELL, CAMERON, BRECKEN, OWEN, GREEN, McLENNAN—12.

Nays—Hons. KELLY, Col. Secretary, Atty. General, CALLECK, DAVIES; Messrs. G. SINCLAIR, ARSENAULT, McNEILL, REILLY, KIRKHAM, McORMACK—11.

So it was carried in the affirmative.

The main motion as amended was then put and carried.

A message from the Council desiring a committee from the House to join another from the Council, to prepare an Address to Her Majesty on the Governor's Salary.

Also, stating that the Legislative Council have passed "An Act to continue and amend certain Acts relating to Summerside"; and "An Act relating to the celebration of Marriages in the Bible Christian Church."

The Bill to empower the Government of Prince Edward Island to expend ten thousand pounds in the purchase of lands in the said Island, was read a second time.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on said Bill.

Mr. McORMACK in the Chair.

The Bill was then read clause by clause and agreed to without amendment.

Mr. Speaker took the chair and the Chairman reported that the committee had gone through the Bill without making any amendment thereto, and the report was again read at the Clerk's table.

Ordered, That the said Bill be engrossed.

Resolved, That a Committee of three members be appointed to report on the contingent accounts of the House for the present session, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Howlan, the Hon. Mr. CALLECK and Mr. OWEN, do compose the said committee.

Resolved, That a committee of three members be appointed to prepare an Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, thanking His Excellency for his various communications and messages to the House during the present session.

Ordered, That Mr. Reilly, Mr. G. Sinclair and Mr. BRECKEN, do compose the said committee.

House adjourned for one hour.

I. OXENHAM, Reporter.

Afternoon Session.

On motion of Mr. Brecken the Bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of unfortunate Debtors was read a third time and passed.

DESPATCHES.

On motion of Hon. Leader of the Government, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the consideration of certain despatches.

Mr. Reilly in the chair.

The Despatch was read relating to the Confederating of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—This Despatch, Mr. Chairman, merely informs us of the fact that the provinces mentioned in it have been confederated. We might remark, however, that if we take notice of the working of the Dominion, which has lately been formed, we will find that not only has it lost one of its most talented statesmen as we have heard within the last few days, but that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction existing among its people. In fact a delegate has been sent to England from one of the confederated provinces, (Nova Scotia) for the purpose of trying to get a repeal of the Act which unites that province with Canada. In the province of New Brunswick also, if we are to believe what appears in the newspapers, there is a great deal of dissatisfaction. Although we did not join the Union, we may be sorry that those who have done so should begin to complain before they have given the Government of the New Dominion a fair trial. As to whether Nova Scotia will succeed in her attempt, to withdraw from the Dominion or not, is a subject upon which I will not venture an opinion.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Mr. Chairman, when in London last year I saw a great placard posted up containing the proclamation which is in that despatch, and I was not sorry to find that our little Island was not included in it. With the doubts we had on the subject, I think it was well to wait and ascertain how the system would work. And now we see that the people of one of the most important parts of that Dominion are very dissatisfied, and I think with very good reason, for they were forced into the Union against their will; and if justice is done to that colony I think that before many months we shall see a great change in the constitution of the Dominion. If Nova Scotia succeeds in getting out of Confederation, New Brunswick will very likely follow, for she consented to enter the Union with the understanding that Nova Scotia was also to be a part of the Dominion. It has not worked as well as its promoters thought it would, and I think we may be satisfied that we are free from it.

Hon. Mr. McLAULAY.—There is scarcely an incident, Mr. Chairman, which does not pass before the eyes of a wise man which does not teach him a lesson, and I think we have learned a lesson from what has transpired in the neighboring provinces. I think we acted the wise part in refraining from joining the Union until we found out what effect Confederation would have on the other provinces. It is a satisfaction also to know that the most ardent unionist in this Island would not consent to join the Union without appealing to the people and obtaining their consent. So soon as it appears that a Union will be advantageous to us, it will be soon enough for us to think seriously of joining it. We have taken the safe course, and we are not affected with that dissatisfaction which prevails in the other colonies. They acted the part of a child springing to grasp something which appeared bright, but the nature of which it did not understand. I hope, however, that the results will not be so disastrous to them as some persons anticipated. I cannot agree with my hon. friend the Attorney General that New Brunswick can free herself from the Union—for she entered it of her own accord, and she must lie on the bed which she made for herself.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—I think, Mr. Chairman, that no hon. member can think with indifference of the subject before the committee. It is true that the New Brunswickers entered the union with too great haste, and the fact that they are now dissatisfied with their position goes to confirm what you, Sir, and others have so often expressed as your convictions, that nothing would justify us in entertaining the question while we could avoid it. But while the people of New Brunswick entered the union those of Nova Scotia were dragged into it by a conspiracy, a conspiracy against the best interests of the whole colony, and a gross abuse of the constitutional power put into the hands of the people's representatives for a very different purpose. Now, Sir, I feel no pleasure at any confusion or disturbance in any portion of the North American Provinces, for whatever tends to disturb any portion, more or less tends to disturb the whole, and we being so closely connected with the rest must sensibly feel the effects of any jarring elements at work within them. But, Sir, it is easy to contrast the first movements of the Dominion machinery with the glorious state of things which the admirers of union would fain have made us believe would be the result. I think that whatever may be said of the future prospects of the Dominion, every person who takes a fair survey of the question will come to the conclusion that for the present, at least, it will be better for Prince Edward Island to retain her isolated position.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—About the time the Dominion Government was being formed, an offer of \$800,000 was made to this Island, and it was thought by a great many that this would be sufficient to induce the people to go into Confederation, that it would be enough to buy out the proprietors' claims. But it should be remembered that that was an offer of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Delegates, and was not confirmed by the Canadians, and if the people of this Island had joined the Union it is very doubtful if these promises would have been fulfilled. I believe the people of this Island are satisfied that they are better off in their present position that they would be connected with Canada even had they obtained the \$800,000. There was no guarantee that the Dominion Government would pass a compulsory measure to settle the land question, and from the Despatch from the Colonial Minister now before us, we may infer that such a measure would not be sanctioned by the British Government. If the proprietors were unwilling to sell, the Dominion Government although they had offered the \$800,000, would not be called upon to pay it. If ever this Island does enter Confederation it will be when matters are going on more smoothly than at present.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I wish, Mr. Chairman, to say a few words on this subject, chiefly to express my sym-