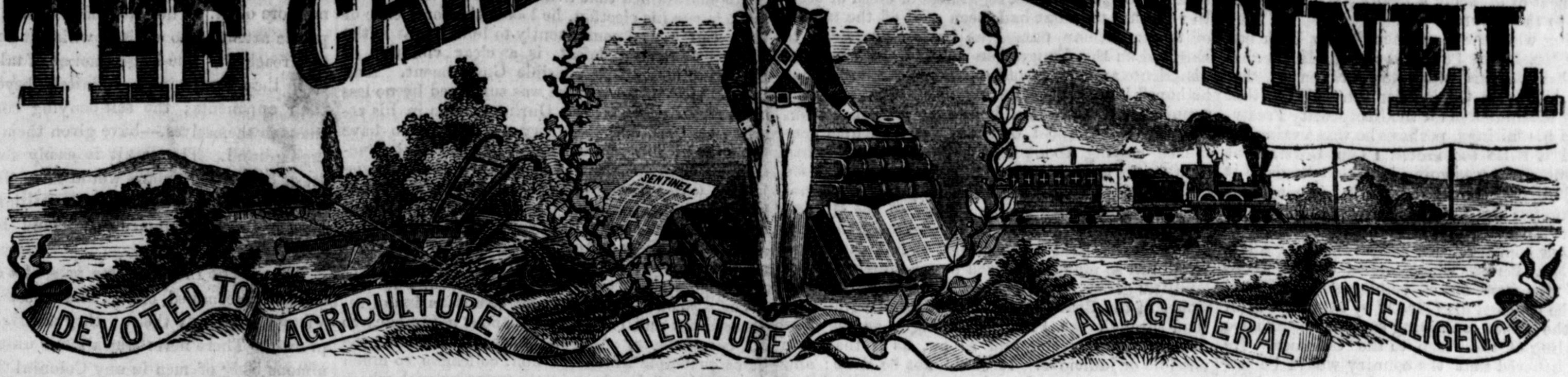


# THE CARLETON SENTINEL.



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## Parliamentary.

### WANT OF CONFIDENCE DEBATE.—Continued from Fifth Page.

vote. In 1854, on the question of Want of Confidence in the Government of that day, there were twenty-seven votes in favor of their overthrow, and among these were his hon. colleague, the Commissioner of the Board of Works, and the Hon. Postmaster General. Their sentiments on that subject and at that time were recorded in what is called the "political primer," and from that he would now read their own words. [Here the hon. member proceeded to read extracts from the speeches of the gentlemen alluded to, in the reports.] What was it, he would ask, which had since, with such magical effect, changed their opinions? Was it any new light which had dawned upon their understanding? It might be; but nothing could appear to prove it beyond the fact that they had themselves been added to the Government. The thing told their own story precisely; but the fixing of a Government upon such a basis, instead of the principles of candour and honesty, could never meet with his (Mr. H.'s) approval.

His hon. colleague, the Commissioner of the Board of Works, had said that, three months previously to his acceptance of office, he had been offered a seat in the Council; and he followed up this assertion by stating that he had at last been taken into it by force; to this he also added that it was unfair to judge of his conduct before he could have an opportunity of producing his Report. But he would ask those late accessions to the Government, did they not themselves on a former occasion vote against the Government, while one of its principal officers (Mr. Street) was necessarily absent in Northumberland? and he would ask the country whether those late accessions had been productive of any general benefit. For some of the members of the Government he had a high respect. They were men for whom he could almost sacrifice his private property; but he had a duty to adhere to, and, however unpleasant, it must be performed. They had reported that the cause of his anticipated vote against them was their refusing him the office of Sheriff of York. This required explanation. On the situation becoming vacant, a friend of his—one to whom he was largely indebted for his position in the Legislature—came to him with a message to the effect that if he wanted the office it was at his disposal. This offer he at first declined, but afterwards, on the solicitation of his wife, he agreed to the proposal, and wrote, not an application, but a private note, to the Secretary, stating that he was willing to accept the situation. The next thing he learned was that a member of the Government had said he would resign his place if the person he himself had recommended was not appointed. How ready the hon. member was with his resignation! Why had he not resigned when, according to his own account, such large expenditures had been made by his colleagues on the railway in St. John, without his concurrence?—expenditures for which his own County must now be subjected to heavy taxation. Could he not, to use his own expression, put down his foot on the extravagance of the Saint John Railroad?—and then he would be in a proud position to meet his constituents in the County of York; nor would he require, to use another of his expressions, to run about barefoot to seek that support which might now be denied him. [Here Mr. H. made allusion to a private agreement which he believed had been made by another party with Mr. MacPherson, in order to defeat him at the last election, which statement was denied by Mr. MacPherson.] He had told the Government that unless they gave the Board of Works to MacPherson he would make a fuss which would annoy them; but the hon. gentleman's own version of the affair now is that they had forced him to join them.—Thus, his hon. colleague being first forced into the Government, and having yesterday condemned it, the natural inference was that he would vote against them at last. He was under little obligations to his hon. colleague, Mr. MacPherson; for he, with all his boasting of his coming out to sustain the prerogative, had instructed influential men in the County to vote against himself and the gentleman that was defeated. He had gone to certain persons to whom he (Mr. H.) was under pecuniary obligations, to urge them to coöperate his vote on this occasion. ["It is not true," by Mr. MacPherson.] If the hon. gentleman were capable of knowing the meaning of his own words, he (Mr. H.) should call him to account for his assertion; but, as it was, he

should pay no attention to it. He was under no obligation to the Government; he had refused their offices; and, if their power was sufficient to destroy him politically, they would at least find him beyond purchase. All the gold in California could not bind him to their interests while they misgoverned the country. The Commissioner of the Board of Works had formerly complained that he had not, as a member for the County, been consulted when the late Attorney General had appointed six magistrates for the County of York; but how had his hon. colleague acted, when receiving the reins of power in his own hands? Why, he had appointed eighteen or twenty magistrates, and had not consulted him (Mr. Hatheway) in a single instance. How inconsistent with his former professions! His hon. colleague (Mr. MacPherson) had made a singular speech yesterday; for, while he declared that he had come out as a candidate to maintain the Governor's prerogative, he also declared that he had instructed his friends to give their fourth vote for Mr. Fisher. [Here Mr. MacPherson stated that the language quoted referred not to the last but a former election; he had not amalgamated with any one but Messrs. Allen and McIntosh at the late election.] He would accept the explanation; but he had another charge of a more serious nature to bring against the Government. They attempted to justify the non-appointment of Railway Commissioners on the ground of public economy, when it was well known that they had sent those offices a-begging all over the country. They now deprecated party turmoil, and so did he; but at the same time it was well worth while to consider whether the men which had always denounced Responsible Government were the men to carry out its provisions whenever they interfered with their own interests. He had never heard so damaging a speech as that made yesterday by the Commissioner of the Board of Works, in expounding the policy of the Government. ["It was his own views he expounded," by Hon. Attorney General.] It certainly now became a grave matter whether a Government, acting independently of the House of Assembly, should have such vast power over the resources of the people,—whether such extraordinary means being vested in their hands would not, in fact, enable them to retain their seats during life. But the Commissioner of the Board of Works had denied all knowledge of the origin of these extravagant expenditures now proceeding in St. John. It might be; and if so, then he (Mr. H.) would give the Hon. Secretary and Attorney General full credit for the clever dodge which they had played upon their colleague. [Here the hon. Attorney General denied that any trick had been played upon Mr. MacPherson.] The Hon. Attorney General might deny the dodge, but it was too plain and too novel to be overlooked; for who ever had heard, except in the present instance, of a temporary railway laid down on the ice, and, at the same time, in the absence of those contracts which the law had in all such cases prescribed? It could only be accounted for in the fact that the Government considered their personal interests identified with those expenditures. Such men, playing such a ruse in the Province, will, however, find that their conduct will in due time meet its reward, and that their support can no longer proceed from the independent portion of the community. For him, he was not afraid of their threatened "dissolution," with the ballot in view to restrain their corruption; and even if he were not sure of his return, he would cheerfully resign his political existence, if, in doing so, his last vote were to sustain the independence and welfare of the country. He would now conclude in the very words of the Postmaster General's speech in 1854, believing, as that gentleman did then, "that his vote would assist to overthrow a corrupt Government, and to put better men in their place."

Hon. Mr. WILMOT was astonished at what had fallen from Mr. Hatheway; when he spoke confidentially to that gentleman he did not think he would afterwards make any allusion to it in public. He had a right to suppose that Mr. Hatheway was friendly to him and the Government, and he did not think Mr. H. would mention what had taken place between them as private conversation. [Mr. Hatheway arose in order to make certain explanations. Several other members also arose, and much confusion prevailed for a few minutes. His Honor the Speaker expressed a hope that order would be preserved, and remarked that the debate had been one of personality so far.] Mr. Wilmot continued. He was prepared to justify the vote that he had given on the Prohibitory Law. He had voted for that law under peculiar circumstances. He was

sorry that Mr. Hatheway had seen fit to make use of statements confidentially mentioned to him.—Mr. H. had said in the Secretary's office that although he had not a Directorship in the Railway he was prepared to support the government. His (Mr. W.'s) honorable colleagues knew that he did not want to accept office. He at first refused and wanted Mr. Kerr of Northumberland to take the office, but when a great constitutional question arose, he was prepared to take his stand in support of it. He accepted the office. Its business accumulated; he went before the people and they justified what he did by returning him. He would ask the ex-Attorney General, upon what principle he came before a British House of Assembly and sought to condemn a government when there was no act by which they could be condemned. When he accepted office, he found the credit of the Province at a low ebb. There were no funds on hand. The late government could not borrow money from either of the three banks in St. John, and so far as the credit of the country was concerned, money was not to be obtained; there had been drawn on the Bank of New Brunswick £20,000, and there were warrants afloat which swelled up to nearly £30,000. If he had consulted his own feelings he would have let his predecessors remain in office.

The Resolution before the House was the same as that presented in 1854. Then as now it was with the opposition, "Gentlemen we want your offices;" or if it is not this, they sought to try again the constitutional question, and the Prohibitory Law which the Assembly had repealed by a vote of 37 to 2.

When he (Mr. W.) first came into the Legislature, from what he knew of the trade of the country, he thought his services would be of benefit.—Trade was then depressed and cramped from various causes. He endeavoured to bring about a different system and was in some degree successful in the effort. He aspired to no office, and had always endeavoured to maintain discretion in all things, in order to prevent corrupt legislation. [The honorable gentleman here read a lengthy extract from the Montreal Pilot, showing the working of Responsible Government in Canada and its applicability to the present state of affairs in New Brunswick.] If (he said) this grab-game for office was to continue, corrupt results would be the consequence. He stated that he was determined not to go into the Government, but after being dragged in, and after working daily from nine in the morning until seven in the evening, he was unable to meet the expenses his acceptance of office had entailed upon him. If any member would take the office and perform its duties he should be quite willing to attend to his ordinary business.

Of the charges made against the Government, the first was the non-enforcing of the Election Law. He could tell the Hon. gentleman who made this charge, that Revisors had been appointed and Assessors elected in the several Counties, and what more could the Government do. It was not their business to interfere in local affairs. This was contrary to "great Liberal principles." He (Mr. W.) had opposed the law, making the franchise £100 personal property. He would do it again.—If we must depart from the freehold franchise, it would be as well to go further than was contemplated by the present Law. How was it in the present anomalous position of the Province. In Westmorland two of the Parishes were disfranchised, and he could tell his hon. friend from York, his County was disfranchised; he had taken the opinions of legal gentlemen upon the subject who knew as much about it as the ex-Attorney General, and the cause for this was trumped up as a charge against Government by the falsely called Liberals. "Turn them out" was now their cry. He (Mr. W.) had reason to believe that his standing as a member of the House was as good as any other.—If he had exercised the power placed at his disposal he might have caused several to be removed from office, but he was convinced that party Government could not be carried out in a House of 41 members. The evils of such a system could be seen in the United States, and he would always hold up his voice against any such principle.

He had accepted office with the one view of trying to benefit the interests of the country, and he would tell his hon. friend from York that he had better wait until the government brought in their measures before they condemned them. Respecting their railway policy, his hon. friend the Solicitor General had showed that if Commissioners had been appointed there was little for them to do. First, the government wrote to the Messrs. Barings and showed wherein it was injudicious to give full effect to

the scheme of the late government. They were not prepared to say to them that they would take £250,000 Provincial Debentures and sell them at par. According to an estimate, the completion of the Railroad from the Bend to Shediac would cost £50,000, including materials, &c. The contracts were entered into immediately after receiving the answer from the Messrs. Barings, and how the hon. member for York could say that contracts could have been let for £15,000 less, he was at a loss to conjecture. [Mr. Hatheway explained that he had not made any such statement.] Mr. Wilmot continued.—The honorable member for York was beat-ed at the time, and might have made a mistake.—He (Mr. Wilmot,) thought the Government ought to have credit for what they had done. They had not appointed any of their friends to office or place, and it was time enough to condemn them on their Railway policy when the accounts of the expenditure of monies on the works were laid before the House. Suppose, for instance, they had not gone on with the Railway, what a hue and cry there would have been throughout the length and breadth of the country. Of this he felt satisfied, that he, as a member of the Government, had done his duty, irrespective of what might be said by those who were making a scramble for office. What did they find in the autumn of last year? It came to the knowledge of the Government that large numbers of men about St. John were unemployed. The Government thought that if these men could be kept in the country during the winter, they would be doing great good by giving them employment. Charges had been made against the Government that the money had been wasted but these charges were false. He (Mr. W.) could show that according to Mr. Light's statement, three miles of the Railway, near St. John, were now finished, and the locomotive would be running in 6 weeks. (Hear, hear.) The whole cost to the Government of this work, providing the terminus was to be at York Point, would not amount to £5000. That's an awful matter to condemn a Government upon, for perhaps putting bread in the mouths of a large number of our labouring men in an inclement season of the year, and keeping them from starving. He would give Mr. H. Gilbert as his authority for stating that the works near St. John could be done at a cheaper rate in summer than in winter. Then there was another hue and cry about "an old rattle trap engine" the cost of which had been \$4000. The Iron which had been used had been shipped in New York at £10 10s per ton currency. He (Mr. W.) believed that the winter season was just as good a time for blasting rocks as the summer season, and the government were bound to do all in their power to expedite the work. Another charge made against him in his official career was that in a financial statement he had put down £46,000 of Debentures issued as a part of the Provincial Liabilities; he (Mr. W.) thought he was perfectly correct in so doing. It was not necessary to go into finances, as they would receive full attention when the question of Ways and Means came before the House. Another charge made against the government by the honorable member for York had reference to the Post Office department, which was that no order in Council had been made respecting a deficiency to the amount of £4,500. But the honorable member for York had overlooked one important item, which was the issuing of a warrant in the sum of £896 5s, an amount due the British Post Office. On the first of August they were obliged to pay a further sum of £3,290, which it was discreditable to the late government to have left such large sums unpaid. Of the charges made against the government relative to the Emigration scheme, he could say that during the three years he was in the Crown Land Office he had paid over monies amounting to £35,000. One would suppose that according to the statement made by the honorable member for York there was not a man of common sense in the government. Was it to be expected that the government were going to give away good lands for nothing. How would this be treating the old settlers who had to pay for their lands and had borne the burthen in the heat of the day. The object of the government was to induce such people to come here as those now belonging to Harvey settlement. Their desire was that the population of the country should increase and its forest lands be made available for settlement. The Regulations made were not of a stringent character. They were copied after those adopted in Canada.—He (Mr. W.) would be prepared to give away lands if the howling wilderness could be converted into a

\* This was what the Reporter understood the U. S. Mr. W. to say.