

Responsible Government. In Canada the attention of the people had recently been turned to the subject of political reform. In a late number of the *Globe* newspaper, he found, among a list of Resolutions passed by the Reform Alliance, one which he thought applicable to this Province, and which he would read:

"Resolved, That the systematic expenditure of the public money by the Executive, without the consent of the people's Representatives; the placing of large sums at the disposal of the Ministry of the day for undefined purposes; the amalgamation, in one 'Omnibus Bill,' of a sufficient number of small grants to local objects to secure the passage of some great public wrong; the creation of new offices at the will of the Executive; the improper influence brought to bear on the Legislature by the employment of members of Parliament as paid employees of the Crown; and many other similar abuses, demoralizing to public men, and directly productive of the alarming and rapid increase of the public debt of late years witnessed,—imperatively demand the imposition of constitutional restraints on the power now exercised by the Administration of the day, and a thorough reform of the Departmental system."

He (Mr. C.) perceived by the papers that Judge Haliburton, formerly of Nova Scotia, had recently been bringing the Colonies prominently before the British public; but he thought the Judge had gone further than facts would warrant, or than the feelings of the Provincial people would endorse.—Judge Haliburton had laid down three propositions, first, Representation in the Imperial Parliament; second, Annexation to the United States; third, Union of the Colonies,—contending that one or the other must speedily come. To neither of the first propositions did he (Mr. C.) think the people would consent. But he thought—and in this opinion he believed a large portion of the people of the Province agreed—the time would come when the British American Colonies would form one grand Confederation under a Viceroy from England, when the Governors of the various Provinces would be elected by the people. He hoped the time would never come when entire separation from England would take place. We should be removed from under her protecting wing, and lose the assistance of her fleet and army.

Reference had been made by some hon. gentlemen to statements made in newspapers; he seldom noticed those things. Men who entered public life must expect these attentions; but there was one matter which he felt it to be his duty to notice. There had appeared some time since, in the *Head Quarters*, a statement to the effect that he (Mr. C.) had speculated in the Sullivan Creek Bridge contract. He had reason to suppose the Hon. Commissioner of the Board of Works had heard the report and knew it to be untrue. The Report was that he (Mr. C.) had offered to become security for the contract to build the bridge. He had never done so; but he knew of two responsible parties who had offered, and they were not accepted. He had advanced £50 at one time when the Commissioner did not feel disposed to advance it, which was returned by the Chief Commissioner; and that was all he ever had to do with the matter. There was a report current that the Commissioner of Board of Works has done something in the way of finding supplies at Sullivan Creek.—[Board of Works explained that he lent the Contractor some Flour and Pork.] Then the Reports were true. For his own part he had long since made up his mind not to have anything to do with such things, and thought it wrong for members of the Legislature to interfere with public works.—He did not think the Government had done what they ought; had they done so, and advanced the sum required by the Contractor, the Bridge might now have been finished. But they refused the paltry advance he asked, professing that he had overdrawn, although when the investigation took place it turned out that he had not.

An observation had been made by his hon. friend from St. John, with reference to the vote he gave last winter; but he had before, he thought, satisfactorily explained his reasons for that vote. He had appealed to the people since that time—to them he had explained the position he had assumed; the result was that he had been returned again to represent his County.

The real matter under discussion had become narrowed down to a small point, but the operation was a large one—he referred to the issue of debentures for the support of Railway works, without appointing Commissioners.

Hon. members, Mr. C. said, were well aware that he had expressed objections to the Election Law; his principal reason for voting for it was because the Ballot system had been introduced. A letter had been addressed to the Secretary's Office, asking for copies of the Election Laws of 1855; in answer, a communication from Mr. Fulton was received, in which he stated that there were but a few copies in print, but that, if it was intended to carry out the law, there would be a large quantity printed. [Prov. Secretary.—"The letter was not written by direction. By order of the Government the law was printed, and a No. sent to every Town Clerk of the Province in ample time for their information as to their duty."] He (Mr. C.) believed that was not the only letter which had emanated from the Secretary's office which should not have been written. He thought there should be some understanding, and the clerks restricted, judging from some letters he had seen. It was, he thought, sometimes very convenient for the heads of Departments to let the clerks write the letters, and then shift the responsibility themselves. To the failure of the Government in having the law distributed, he attributed the fact that the provisions of the law had not been carried out. He did not agree with the opinion expressed by the Hon. Solicitor General, that York and Carleton had been disfranchised.

With reference to Railways, if the Government of the day were allowed to violate the law with

impunity—draw and expend money without direction—ruinous consequences must follow. The evident disagreement among the Government members must damage their reputation with the country.—Upon the railway they were particularly divided in opinion. The Hon. Board of Works could not justify the Railway works as prosecuted at St. John.—still the work was advanced; and what security had the country, if the House submitted to the act of the Government in the instance mentioned, that the Government would not contract for and go on with the road as proposed by the Commissioner of Board of Works, to Grand Falls. [Mr. MacPherson.—"I stated that scheme on my own responsibility." He should become alarmed if funds of the country were to be squandered in the way they had been; and the House approve of it. If there was a prospect of 40 miles of railway being built, at expense of the country, through wilderness land owned by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Land Company, he thought it was time for people who feel any interest in the country to bestir themselves, before it was too late. He (Mr. C.) had been told that the Shediac line would cost, when completed, from a million to a million and a half of money; and he did not know where the funds were to come from to carry out all those magnificent schemes.—He feared that, unless the House at once and forever put an end to the method of doing business pursued by the Government, the country would become bankrupt. £30,000 had already been expended on the Shediac line, while responsible persons had offered to finish it for £25,000. The parties who had taken the contracts were, he believed, irresponsible men, and the Province had no security for the performance of the work; yet much fault had been found with the late Chief Commissioner for not taking security from the contractor for Sullivan's Creek Bridge. The hon. member from Westmoreland had told the House that if they sustained the amendment before them it would destroy the character of Mr. Light. He (Mr. C.) did not entertain any fears of that; he had known Mr. Light a long time, and had never heard a word uttered against him. Nor did he believe that gentleman had acted upon his own responsibility at all, but that he had merely followed out the directions of the Government. This they might infer from the speech of the Attorney General. He (Mr. C.) had been induced to go for the purchase of material, &c., from Peto, Brassey & Co., because it had been represented that that line could be finished for £20,000. In the course he (Mr. C.) intended to pursue, he should not be influenced by comparative acts and measures of late and present Government; but he should oppose the Government on the ground of not sustaining their illegal act in issuing debentures, merely, as stated by Solicitor General, to save—what?—the small amount of Commissioners' salaries. It would have been very easy to have made the Chief Commissioner chairman of Commission until meeting of Legislature, and thus answer every purpose of the law.

It seemed to be pretty certain that the Government could not induce gentlemen to accept the situation, and that not a desire to economise gave the key to their actions. He (Mr. C.) believed the credit of the country had been imperilled by the course pursued, and thought it should be one of the first duties of the House to pass a Bill of Indemnity. If the Government had, as they promised in July, carried out the Railway Laws, they would now have stood in a much better position before the country than they did. He thought it became the House now to stamp with their disapprobation the acts of the Government. "They had done the things they should not have done, and had left undone the things they should have done;" therefore they should be displaced from power, and men appointed who would be sustained by the country.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

[By Telegraph to the Sentinel.

FREDERICTON, February 20th, 1857.

The following Bills were reported as agreed to by the House in Committee of the Whole: A Bill to alter the time of holding Court in the County of Charlotte—Mr. Scovill in the Chair; a Bill to regulate Road-Tax on property of Non-Residents situated on Islands in River St. John—Mr. McLellan in Chair.

The following bills were received and read a first time: A Bill to incorporate Middle Bridge Mill Company, at St. Stephens; a Bill to authorise Justices of Peace for Restigouche to levy a Tax on Inhabitants of Dalhousie for supplying that Town with Railroad; a Bill to authorise Rector, Church-Wardens and Vestry of St. Thomas' Church, Queensbury, to sell certain property, and invest the proceeds in a more convenient situation.

Mr. C. Perley presented petition from Mr. E. A. Cunliffe, and other inhabitants of Carleton, praying a reduction in standard weight of Oats—received and referred to Agricultural Committee.

At 11 o'clock, Mr. Johnson resumed the debate on Fisher's Amendment, reviewing the various statements of the speakers who preceded him, charging the Government with inconsistency in now condemning the course which its members had pursued formerly, defending Election Law at length, and asserting that the statements made by the hon. members that Corporate Counties had been disenfranchised was not correct. He held that either the Government were divided in sentiment, or else the sentiment advanced by its various members should be taken as expressive of its general policy; and in either case it was unworthy of confidence. He contended that, as its provisions for appointment of Commissioners were not carried out, the issue of debentures by the Government under the Bills was illegal, and that the rails might be taken up and the whole work stopped, and there was no means by which the party doing it could be made answerable. He complained of the Government sending Mr. Perley home, and condemned the Emigration Scheme in toto. The hon. gentle-

man kept the floor until 1 o'clock, resumed at 2, and finished at 3.

Gilbert followed in opposition to the Government, warmly advocating the principles of Responsible Government.

Mr. Botsford followed on the side of Government, defending particularly their Railway policy.

Mr. Mitchell next took the floor. He commented severely upon the remarks of the Solicitor General on bribery and corruption, and made a general opening, when, the hour of five having arrived, the debate was adjourned till to-morrow. It seems the division will be equal.

SATURDAY, Feb. 21.

Several Bills and petitions were presented this morning.

Mr. Street presented a Bill for the Amendment of road Act.

Progress reported on Bill to Amend Municipal Act.

Bill was introduced by Desbrisay to divide the Parish of Carleton, in Kent, into two separate Parishes.

Debate on Amendment to Address resumed few minutes after 11.

Mr. Mitchell spoke with much warmth in opposition for nearly 2 hours. He enumerated the several acts of Government since their accession to office, condemned them for opposing the principles of Responsible Government, and believed that they were not entitled to the confidence of the House.

Mr. Kerr spoke at some length. He did not approve of all the acts the Government had done, but he would vote against the Amendment to the Address.

After dinner Mr. K. resumed. He said he would not oppose the Govt. without a trial. He defended the Railway policy of the Govt., and spoke of the good credit of the Province in the English Money Market. He deprecated attacks upon the Government. He thought Northumberland (his own county) had been very liberally dealt with.

Mr. Barberie protested against condemning the Government without a trial. He thought Responsible Government a curse if it brought all this clamour into the House, for the sake of office, which was not the case 18 years ago when he was first a member. He was very severe upon the Liberals.

Mr. Tapley replied; and spoke against the Government and in favour of the amendment. Debate adjourned until Monday.

MONDAY, Feb. 23.

Mr. Ferris presented a petition from the inhabitants of Queen's, praying that the road through Douglas Valley be not placed on the great Road List. Received and ordered to lie on the table.—Some local Bills were read a first time, and progress reported on some of them.

At 11 o'clock, Mr. Connell took the floor. He declared the discussion a very important one, and calculated to benefit the country. He judged the Government not comparatively, but upon their own acts, and on these condemned them, and urged the necessity for general political reform.

Mr. Lewis followed on the same side—declaring the House was not bound to support the Government in all their measures, as some seemed to advocate.

Mr. McMonagle spoke energetically in defence of the Government; they had done nothing worthy condemnation except in the non-appointment of Commissioners. He warned them against such a course. He was not justified in voting against them.

Mr. Scovill followed on the same side, entertaining the same views.

Mr. Laundry also expressed himself in favour of the Government on this motion.

Mr. Watters took the floor, and opened in good style, when the House separated for dinner. Mr. Watters was listened to with much attention his speech was forcible, gentlemanly, and effective.

Mr. McNaughton briefly expressed his views.—He should vote for the amendment.

Mr. Fisher made a general reply, his speech was decidedly the best he has ever delivered in the House, some parts very eloquent.

The House divided, yeas twenty—nays twenty.

The Speaker spoke at length, condemning in unmeasured terms the whole system of departmental and responsible Government, pronouncing them abominable, and calculated to take the country to destruction. Could he see the people rise in their might and blot them out, he could "depart in peace." He referred to the remarks of a member from St. John, that "to the victors belong the spoils," as the very expression of that system of Government. He said that not one member had displayed a spark of patriotism. Decidedly against the amendment.

Mr. Harding entered his protest against the imputations of the Speaker, and thought the sooner the people were appealed to the better.

TUESDAY, February 24.

Mr. Lawrence presented a Petition from the Common Council of the City of St. John, praying that no alteration may be made in the Act relating to the office of Police Magistrate.

Mr. Hatheway presented a Petition from the Rev. Mr. Glass and others, praying that the Report of the Commissioners of King's College may be adopted with certain amendments.

The consideration of the remaining sections of the Address was resumed at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Fisher took occasion to state that some of the remarks of His Honor the Speaker made yesterday when giving the casting vote for the Government, were unjustifiable, and a reflection upon members of the House.

Messrs. Johnson and Smith followed, warmly deprecating the observations of the Speaker, and expressing a belief that the time had arrived when the country should be again appealed to.

His Honor the Speaker supported the position

he had assumed, and was not disposed to retract any statement that he made yesterday.

Messrs. Montgomery and Barberie supported the Speaker, and some little warmth was manifested. Terminated however by the passing of the Address, and the appointment of a Committee to wait upon His Excellency to know when he would receive the same.

Progress was reported on the Bill to authorize the St. John Seamen's Friend Society to wind up their affairs.

Very little business done in the House in the afternoon.

Mr. Gillmor presented a Petition praying for the extension of the Gaol limits in the County of Charlotte.

At 4 o'clock a portion of the members proceeded to Government House with the Address, to which His Excellency made a brief reply.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot moved that the House do adjourn over until Thursday morning. Several members opposed. Motion however finally carried by a vote of 19 to 17.

House consequently will not be in Session to-morrow, it being Ash-Wednesday.

THURSDAY, Feb. 26.

Several Bills received a third reading in the House this morning. Mr. McNaughton took occasion to contradict a statement made in the "Head Quarters" respecting the course he pursued on the vote of Want of Confidence. He said that Mr. End, the new Editor of the paper, was a scoundrel.

Mr. Fisher presented a petition praying for the amendment of Act relating to the sale of Spirituous Liquors, in so far as the same had reference to the Indians.

Monday next was set apart to go into consideration of Mr. McNaughton's Bill to amend the Election Law.

Mr. Harding presented a petition from 755 inhabitants of the City of St. John, praying that the Act for the more effectual Prevention of Fires may be repealed. A Bill was also introduced by Mr. H. to repeal the Act regulating the height of Wooden Buildings in the Burnt District in the City of St. John.

Mr. Lawrence presented a petition from 170 inhabitants of St. John, praying that no alteration be made in the Law regulating the height of Wooden Buildings in the Burnt District.

Mr. Hatheway gave notice of his intention to move an Address to His Excellency for copies of all correspondence & documents relative to the contract for Sullivan Creek Bridge.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot presented a Bill to amend the Act to Incorporate the South Bay Boom Company.

The Bill to repeal the existing Law relating to Mill Reserves was committed. Considerable discussion followed, and finally the Bill was referred to the Lumber Committee.

It was ordered, that the time for striking the Committee to try the scrutiny between Messrs. Lunt and Tapley be extended to the 16th March.

Mr. W. E. Perley stated that, in consequence of the prospect of an immediate dissolution of the House, he would also move for an extension of time in the matter of the parties complaining of the undue return of both representatives for Sunbury.—Motion carried. Time fixed 16th March.

A long discussion took place on the petition of Mr. End, asking for the striking of a new Committee to try the scrutiny with Mr. McNaughton. The House decided that the action at the short Session was final, and nothing further could be done.

Mr. Watters applied for leave of absence for two days.

House adjourned at 5 1/2.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Remittance from B. Beveridge, Esq., for William Burns, received.

Do. from E. C. Phillips, St. Thomas C. W., 25s received. We will make enquiries and let him know by letter.

A number of other favours some of which require special notice, have been forwarded to Fredericton for the consideration of the Editor, & will be noticed next week.

The report of the Northumberland Agricultural Society for '56 and '57 has been laid on our table. It is a pamphlet of 21 pages, the mechanical execution of which reflects credit upon Messrs. Pierce the Printers. In justice to the very able treatment of the subject by the Secretary of the Society, James Cain, Esq., as well as to the intrinsic importance of the subject, Agriculture, we lay the report aside for further and extended notice when we shall have more space at our disposal.

If "Job Disgusted" will call, we will pay him 4d. being amount paid for "Extra" and pre-paid postage on his letter.

In Nova Scotia, on the 18th inst., a vote of want of Confidence in the Government was carried by a majority of six. Government immediately resigned and new one has been formed. Johnston Premier.

Godley for February has come at last. Welcome & thrice welcome.

BUTTERMILK CREEK STORE.

THE subscriber has in store a large supply of OATS, Buckwheat, Corn Meal, Flour, Fish, Pork, &c. &c., which he is prepared to sell as low as such articles are sold at in Woodstock.

The subscriber also begs leave to call the attention of his customers and the County generally to his extensive and well-assorted Stock of

Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Hats, Groceries,

Hardware, Hollow Ware, Crockeryware, Iron, Steel, &c., LIQUORS OF ALL KINDS,

together with an endless variety of other Goods suited for the country.

As the subscriber is determined not to be undersold, he invites parties in want of Goods to give him a call before going to Woodstock.

J. BRADLEY.
Buttermilk Creek, Feb. 25, 1857. 274