

British blood warming in his veins, and that he was indeed standing on hallowed ground. But he did not then see those evidences of commercial prosperity which he was anxious to observe. On his visit to-day, however, and going over their splendid docks, their warehouses, and all those other public establishments which had been created by the untiring energy of the people of Southampton during that short period, he felt all his historical pride and associations quickened and enlivened by the modern enterprise which characterised this great seaport. The object of his visit was to draw closer the ties between the North American Colonies and the Mother Country. To reproduce England on the other side of the Atlantic; to make the children, in institutions, feelings, and civilization, as much like the parent as possible, had been the labor of his past life, and now he wished to encourage the parent to look after her children, and to assure the people of England that across the Atlantic they possessed Provinces of inestimable value. The advantages possessed by Southampton were obvious and potent. No man who visited that port could fail to observe them. They had the British Channel flowing by them like a mighty river—the trade of the Baltic on their left, and of the Mediterranean on the right—the Isle of Wight standing as a natural breakwater at the mouth of their estuary—a beautiful country around them, and the royal city of Winchester, and the imperial city of London at their very doors.

He found existing when he was in this country before, and he still met with it on every hand, he would not say criminal, but a lamentable ignorance of the state of the British Provinces on the Continent of America. An erroneous opinion prevailed, that at the time of the American Revolution nearly all that was valuable on that continent was swept away from British Dominion; and if that opinion should continue to prevail many years longer, the mistake would be fatal. If any one would take the trouble to refer to the map they would find that one half of the whole American Continent still owed allegiance to England, and was subject to the sceptre of Queen Victoria. That vast extent of Country, however, was little known in England. Intelligent men were every day asking him where it was, of what it consisted, what were its boundaries. Gentlemen perfectly familiar with Canada, knew little or nothing of the maritime Provinces; others who traded with Newfoundland, &c., knew little of Canada, and many in Canada knew nothing of the beautiful tract of country which lies behind it. Although the United States of America had extended their boundaries by the conquest of Mexico, &c., England still held possession of one half of that immense continent. Four millions of square miles there were subject to the rule of Queen Victoria—larger than all the states of Europe, including the British Islands, put together. The extent of the whole of European States was 3,708,000 square miles, so that throwing away 292,000 square miles for rivers and lakes of larger extent than were found here, they had on the American Continent, for the inexhaustible sustenance of British subjects, a territory equal to all Europe. The country was of the same description as Europe; it was full of the same advantages, and as capable of improvement as Europe was in her early days. They could give ninety acres of land to every man, woman and child in the British Islands. Supposing that England threw off two millions of her population—and he should presently show that she had two millions to spare—they would be able to give them a square mile of land, or four thousand four hundred and eighty acres for every head of family. This was an object, then, worthy the attention of all in this country. But he had often been taunted about the climate—it was said to be too severe and rigorous for Englishmen. (The Honorable Gentleman then entered into a somewhat lengthy defence of the climate of the northern hemisphere, which he contended to be the best for health and business operations.) Whilst they owned one half of the continent of America, they had, judging from the past experience of Europe, the best half;—not the best for slavery, for they had not a slave throughout their boundaries; not for cotton or tobacco crops for they knew nothing of them, but they produced strong active men and women, for no man could be idle near to Jack frost. Until he was twenty four or twenty five years of age he never wore flannel; very recently he never put on a great coat, except when it rained; and an old Chief Justice of Nova Scotia died some years ago at the age of one hundred and three years, who never wore a great coat in his life. Let them look at the countenance and robust appearance of the inhabitants, and they would see the vigor imparted to them by the climate. Sick regiments invalided home from the West Indies were landed in Nova Scotia; and their health was at once improved; and merchant vessels and ships coming home, landed their invalids there, without any fear of the yellow fever.

(Remainder next week.)

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 February 1, 1951.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

WANT OF CONFIDENCE DEBATE.

THURSDAY, February 6.

From the St. John papers.

Mr RITCHIE rose amid profound silence to propose the amendment. He could not concur in the motion that the address be put and be adopted. There was another and a preliminary question first to be decided. The country had pronounced the government to be unworthy of power. The Speech may be a very good one, and promise very excellent things, but it was for the House to say whether they had confidence in the Government, that they would perform what they so freely promised. The party who acted with him, were of opinion that this was the most important question, and had chosen him to propose a resolution which would bring it to an issue. He felt that this was about to be one of the most important Sessions of this House, whether for weal or for woe, that had ever been held. And the eyes of the people were on this House, watching vigilantly, anxiously, for the action of the house on certain questions. He did not think it proper to proceed to the consideration of the Speech, or of any of the important matters contained in it, until this question should first be decided—Do they possess the confidence of the house. He would therefore propose this Resolution—Resolved, That this house does not deem it proper to proceed at present to the consideration of his Excellency's Speech; the present constitutional advisers of his Excellency not possessing the confidence of this house, or of the people.

He desired to approach the discussion of this subject calmly and dispassionately, without acrimonious language, and on purely constitutional principles, for, though politically, he was not by any means personally antagonistic to the members of the Government.

When first he had the honor of obtaining a seat in that house, he found a fragment of a government existing then, under the leadership of an honorable friend, who is still a member of the government, and to whom, though politically opposed, he is personally a friend. This gentleman had declared that it was utterly impossible that the government of this Province could be conducted on the principles which the liberal party then desired to see introduced, and that no Attorney General could hold the office in the Province, if he were to be responsible for his conduct to his constituency. At the hustings, in St. John, he had pronounced Responsible Government to be Responsible Humbug, and asserted that such a form of government was wholly unfit for this Province. And in that opposition did he obstinately and resolutely persist, until the despatch of the Colonial Secretary, forcing this change upon them, came out. Then his hon. friend, the leader of the government, and his colleagues, pretended to become suddenly converted. A short time after, two life members of the Executive, one of them elevated they need not say when, and another who had lately resigned, who were then leaders of the opposition, went into the government. He had been at the time opposed to his coalition: he felt that when two parties so diametrically opposed in principle, were brought together, and one party pulled one way, and the other, the contrary as they must, that as a natural consequence they would be brought to a stand still, and could not advance. He asserted that no matter what professions of liberality they may use, no matter how heartily and earnestly they may pretend to approve of Responsible Government, these men, so long opposed to progress, could not, if they would work heartily and earnestly; for just in proportion as they were successful, did they prove their former principles to be false and unsound. Besides, he thought the men who had borne the heat and the brunt of the day, when the storms lowered and the clouds grew thick, should now, when the clouds passed away, and the sun shone brilliantly forth, enjoy the fruits of their past labors, and that they should not participate in the enjoyment, who had used every means to thwart and obstruct them. But how did he, having such opinions of that coalition, act? He said that though he was certain no good could come of it—though the old obstructives, he knew, remained the same, he was willing to give them a trial. They said it was the best thing that could be done—that they would no longer be a do-nothing government, and he was willing to give it a trial.

In the following year 1849, the Governor's speech at the opening of the House dealt in generalities; few measures were referred to in a special manner. There were, however, some; one was that of Common Schools, speaking of which the Governor said, "You appreciate the importance and value of Common School education." Education was the great primary means of elevating the people. They may legislate as they please; but unless the people were educated there legislation was, in a great measure thrown away. Ignorance is the parent of prejudice—prejudice of bigotry—bigotry of intolerance, and all those social and domestic dissensions from which they had already suffered so severely. But in this speech there was not one word of the reduction of salaries. On this point the Government observed a total and obstinate silence; and for this silence would he hold them accountable. There was in fact nothing in the speech. He pressed Mr Wilmot hard as to what they would do for the Schools, Agriculture, Municipal Corporations and more particularly concerning the reduc-

tion of salaries and the Railroad from Saint John to Shediac. He looked anxiously for the beneficial results of the new system, of this fusion of parties. He asked where were all those promised benefits, and echo answered, where!! However towards the end of the session, the Government finding that some members were determined themselves to introduce a bill for the reduction of salaries, did propose a measure, but such a one, retrospective, partial and piecemeal, not beginning at the beginning, and promising to be of use only to their children. He told the Attorney General that such a measure would never satisfy the people, who wanted one of which they would themselves derive the benefit; and he proposed as an amendment that the reduction should be immediate. Then a fresh objection was started that a bill was unconstitutional, and that an address was the proper means. He told some hon. member who had voted for the address, and who some time afterwards asked him what had become of the address, that this was only a blind, that there would be no address, and so it proved.

There was one exception to this almost total absence of all mention of governmental plans. There did occur a conversation on Railways originated by them; but where were government when the question came up. Why, hon. Mr Rankin, who was believed to be so powerful in a certain quarter that he should be secured at any price, opposed the measure, and still continued a member of the government. And Mr Fisher, too, pronounced railways to be vagaries, humbugs, and declared they caused suffering and misery, and quoted Moore and Byron; and he too still remained a member of the government.

Last Session people said, well, the Speech does at length promise something; now at last was something to be done. He asked the Attorney General whether anything would be done respecting the subjects mentioned in the Speech, and the answer was very concise, "mention being made necessarily implied the introduction of measures." Was there then any factious opposition to the government. He would pass from point to point and see where they had fulfilled their pledges. Mention was made of Johnston's Report, and 12,000 copies were paid for, yet he knew parties to be unable to procure a copy. Agriculture was of the most vital interest to the country—the primary source of all wealth. He suggested that agricultural instruction should be furnished. Were any pledges given ever fulfilled? Was any measure introduced? Mines and minerals were to be particularly attended to. Here also the pledge was unfulfilled. On the 5th April without explanation or detail, a notice of motion was put on the supply book for a grant to be placed at the disposal of the Lieutenant Governor, to enable him to cause enquiry to be made into the position of the lower strata of coal fields. The grant so asked was very properly refused.

There was a great deal said about Railways and at length the government introduced their little baunting—their pet—a guarantee—the interest on a line from the head of the Bay to the Harbor of Shediac. He pressed them to take up some other comprehensive plan, but this they would not do. Mr Rankin again exposed even this measure. What a happy position does Mr Rankin hold in this government—does just as he pleases, and never gets kicked out. (Loud laughter.) Was there ever such a ministry before; he is an imperium in their imperis, and keep him they must, with part him they haven't.

Next came the Fisheries the great question of the Fisheries, only second in importance to Agriculture. They were mentioned in the Speech and there was an end of it. In no Country were the facilities greater. The Government had sent out their universal Commissioner, and had received his Report, and had all the information he could gather; and he would now ask the Secretary in the name of the fishermen, what measures had been introduced to advance their interests.

But there was one great measure to which everything else gave way; that glorious measure Consolidation—cutting out one section of one Act, and adding it to one of another.—This was the great and glorious measure to which the government were devoted, for which they neglected everything else—Consolidation—and the effect of all this was that the Queen's Printer earned a large sum, and the lawyers had less law with less trouble finding the Acts. The only principle of vitality they contained was the Elective principle in the Parish Act, proposed by Mr Jordan in Committee, and adopted by the house.

The question of Retrenchment was again forced on the Government, and observe how they acted. A high legal functionary came before the House to complain of the injury about to be done him. And his friend produced in writing his disapprobation of what he called a dishonest act; and he still remains a member of the Government, one of whose acts he so characterised. Such a proceeding could not be dittoed all over the world. The Bill, forced on by the introduction of Mr Wark's Bill, was introduced at the end of the Session, and passed, and he was congratulating himself on having had share in passing one good measure, when next day the house was prorogued, and so the Bill never became law.

After such acts of the Government, their broken promises and words, boneyed to the ear, but bitter to the heart, could they longer allow the Government to tantalize the people with promises of such measures as those spoken of in the present speech? He thought they must be satisfied that the administration

proved to be so utterly regardless of their first duties, should be tolerated no longer. One measure the house deserved credit for, that for making the Legislative Council elective. The present Attorney General voted against the principle.

He would defy them to point to any of their promises fulfilled. Was it strange that the public should withdraw their confidence from these men, and insist that those in whom they had confidence should be advisers of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Governor in his speech at the close of the Session hoped the people would properly appreciate their services. Ay, truly, never were services more properly and fully appreciated. And observe the consequences. Cloud rose upon cloud, murmurs upon murmurs, the indignation of the people, long pent up, had now an opportunity to vent itself, and the fact of being a member, but more especially an old member, was as having a ticket marked regne upon a man's back. As the election approached there are more expressions of discontent. The Writs were issued, and here is the Metropolitan city, the honorable, distinguished for its political acumen, hurried from his seat; a member of the Government whose talents and abilities would under other circumstances, have placed him at the head of the poll, polled not one half the entire number, and if he occupied his seat to day, would be the representative of the minority.

And the great controller of the Government, who had managed the political machine with such unrivalled skill ever since he had first got his fingers on the strings, he in his own country, where he had been born and reared, where he knew everybody, shook hands with everybody over and over, enquired after the health of their families and could tell the number of their children. Where he had ever been regarded as unassailable, even there did he suffer an ignominious defeat. Dejected there, he fled not to a people whom he knew but to a far land among strange people, who had never before exercised the franchise separately and on their own account; whose language he did not understand; whose names he did not know, or if he did, he could not pronounce. And they elected him. King's county rejected three supporters of the Government. Onward and still onward went the course of events. Westmoreland heard of it, and if Jove spake true, Felix trembled.

Mr HANNINGTON—Oh no; he didn't. Mr RITCHIE—Well; Weldon was also rejected for the same cause, and a young man chosen in his stead; and in Northumberland a young man was elected without aid of purse or ledger, by the purity and force of his principles alone.

He did not arraign the present Attorney General with the misdeeds with which he charged them—he had nothing to do with them; nay, he held in his hand proof that Mr Street condemned their misconduct as severely as he could. In his address to the electors of Northumberland last fall, he says he will not support the Government, because "he thinks them politically dishonest." Here was the glorious privilege of the press. Dishonest was a harsh expression; but if they were so then, could they be trusted now? Because of so much promised and so little done—of their many pledges given and broken; because they have done nothing to promote the interests of the people and the prosperity of the country, and are unfit and disqualified for the Government of the country, did he call on in the house to support the amendment.

One word more and he had done. What had they done to secure the interests of the people of this country? Lord John Russell, in a despatch told them that all local matters would be left entirely to themselves, and yet the appointment of the two Legislative Councilors was fit made known in the London Daily News. They were indeed a Government of mystery and intrigue. Within a few days a member of the opposition was elevated to the same position by an extraordinary kind of transmogrification; and then there was Mr Fisher's retirement on account of the appointment of the Judge. These matters perhaps formed the subject of a flowery minute in Council, which was transmitted to Earl Grey to be stowed away in one of his pigeon holes.

He had, he believed, said enough to convince them that this Government was unworthy of their confidence. It was not a new—it was an old Government—very old and tattered—with a strangely coloured patch put on—a very small piece in addition.

Mr NEDHAM seconded the amendment. The Honorable J. R. PARTELOW said it could not be expected that they would go in to their defence at that advanced hour. He attack had been wholly unexpected. It was unusual to offer such a resolution on the first day of the Session. He thought they would wait for some days until the Attorney General would be able to take his seat. He now asked for an adjournment.

Mr RITCHIE had no objection. The debate was accordingly adjourned to Friday, 10 o'clock. (Mr Ritchie's speech occupied one hour and forty minutes, and produced a powerful effect.)—Ereman.

FRIDAY, second day.—To-day, immediately after the Journals were read, Mr Taylor attempted to move the reception of a petition from James Boyd, Esquire, against the return of Mr Fitzgerald, one of the sitting members for Charlotte; but was overruled by the Speaker, who decided that nothing could take precedence of the resumed debate upon Mr Ritchie's amendment to the Address. Mr Partelow commenced by declaring that