

ney General) would think it high time to resign. But that the government did not resign on this occasion was not a case that called for the interference of the house; and this was also the opinion of the house as expressed by their vote on the resolution of want of confidence at the beginning of the session. The second resolution contradicts the first, which, as it referred to the despatches, for the very information of which it was predicated. This was an act of the home government under very peculiar circumstances.

If they thought the home government acted as they ought not to have done, then let a joint resolution of both houses be addressed to them on the subject. This was the view the government took of it, and they did not therefore resign. The information furnished the house, in consequence of the address, was as full as could be desired. If the government had used their discretion improperly, then let them propose a resolution to that effect. This was very like persecution, after the matter had been fully canvassed, discussed and decided upon, again to introduce it towards the close of the session. It showed indomitable perseverance in the hon. member in his endeavors to oust the government. He would now go through the resolutions.

The third, which declared that it was the duty of the government to bring forward measures of reduction, &c., was predicated upon the Despatches on salaries. Previous to his taking office, the government showed him this despatch, which was alone the despatch he had alluded to, and with the principles of that he fully concurred; and he said he was fully satisfied with the reasons advanced in it by Earl Grey. The hon. member for Albert had said in his speech on the opening debate that he (the Attorney General) was not the man to barter his principles, or jump Jim Crow. He would again say, that no man was more willing to go for retrenchment and reduction, as far as it could be carried consistently with good faith. The government suggested that they should address the home government, and take the whole question up. He did not say they were obliged to take whatever came in a despatch, and submit to it. He did not stand there as a member of the government to say so, but that they should remonstrate with the home government on the subject, and that this was the constitutional mode of proceeding. If this Government were to go out, and his Excellency was called on to form another, and was told that parties could go into the government only in direct opposition to the despatches, then he could not form a government. If they chose to send home a remonstrance, that, he repeated, was the proper course. He did not stand there to deny that the home government had acted improperly. But he did not go with the resolution, because he believed the principles expressed in it could not be sustained. In 1836 a compact was entered into with the home government, which in 1838 was made perpetual. He would call their attention to that portion of the despatch where Earl Grey says, that to enter into a compact one year, and the next year to repudiate it, must injure the credit of the Province. There was, however, nothing to prevent their reducing the salaries in prospective, and he was willing to go for this. The independence of the Judiciary was a matter of the utmost importance; and it would destroy the independence of the Bench in toto, if they were to be thus subjected to reductions, and to depend on the annual vote of that house for their salaries.

He did not greatly differ with the resolution regarding bounties; but that resolution was brought in in a most insidious way. He had not, in the enunciation of his political creed, said a word of bounties. But as to salaries, he had never kept back his opinions on this subject. He did not profess to have any vested rights, and the salary of Attorney General may be reduced at once. But, so far as the offices alluded to in the despatch, he thought it his duty to state his opinions on this subject as soon as possible. He had then stated that the government was not prepared to introduce a measure; but that they wished the whole question referred to a committee. The hon. member then stated, that at an early day he would move the house into committee of the whole on the State of the Province. Could they have expected the government to take up the question until this was disposed of? What had they done since? The house would allow that they did what they could; they introduced the School Bill; the Municipal Corporations Bill; the Law Reform Bill, &c. Nine bills that had passed he had introduced; therefore they must see that the government was not idle, but did every thing in their power to promote the interests of the country. The Initiation of Money Grants, as he stated before, they were willing to take, but it would be a violation of the privileges of the house, if any member of the government asked it at their hands. With all the sixth resolution, except the last portion, he agreed. He would yield to no man in a desire to advance the interests of the agriculturists; and if the truth were known, perhaps few had spent more money in the endeavors to do so. He had said, that a system of rural economy, such as that practised by the Scotch agriculturist should be adopted; but he surely did not say that he thought the farmers should not have meal and molasses. He had never used such expressions. He would wish to see the farmers live on the most comfortable, the most luxurious fare—the produce of their own farms. He would wish to see them take pride in their avocations—that their children may willingly adopt this mode of life.—Why then use such expressions, or attribute to him opinions he had never entertained,

and expressions he had never used. These Resolutions, he would again remark if passed in their present state, amounted to a vote of confidence. The hon. mover may be influenced by patriotic motives alone, both in proposing the resolutions at the beginning of the session, and in now again bringing forward those resolutions. It would be for the house to say whether it was for the interests of the country that time be taken up in discussing questions of colonial policy that were not disputed, and questions of local government on which they had already pronounced their opinion. (The hon. and learned gentleman as he proceeded, read the amendments to the several resolutions; but this was so often repeated that we could not find space to give them in the same order, and therefore omit them altogether.)

Mr GILBERT was disposed to go with the Resolutions; but thought it was expecting too much of the Government to do what their predecessors had left undone.

The debate was then adjourned.

FREDERICTON, April 25.

Mr Hannington said that a revision of the Judiciary be made by the Legislative enactment so as to ensure the efficient discharge of Judicial duties by four Judges, including the Master of the Rolls, and showed that if there were an additional circuit, the reduced number would be sufficient, and would have 200 days left for travelling, preparing judgments, &c.

Mr Gray said the business in Chambers occupied much time.

The Attorney General strongly opposed. Mr Ritchie proposed as an amendment, that it be the duty of the Government to take all matters connected with the administration of Courts of Law and Equity into their consideration, and prepare for next Session such measures as would render these more suitable to the wants of the people and effect of saving.

Mr Partelow did not like the amendment. He said the Government would have to sit every day from this till next Session, and could not then effect what was proposed.

The amendment was lost. The Resolution was carried by a large majority.

Mr Scoullar proposed a resolution on Initiation as already published.

Mr Johnson proposed an amendment that they should not surrender the Initiation of Money Votes until Municipal Institutions were in efficient operation.

Mr Needham opposed surrendering the Initiation of Money Votes until they had party, departmental Responsible Government—if passed now it would perpetuate the Government in office.

Mr Ritchie thought the Initiation being in the hands of the Government would be the means of getting the Municipal Institutions adopted, but preferred that they should first be in operation.

For the amendment—Messrs Johnson, Cutler, Ritchie, Tilley, Taylor, Stiles, Chapman, McPherson, Fitzgerald and Gray—10.

For the Resolution—Messrs. Scoullar, Partelow, Rankin, Hayward, English, Beardsley, Williston, Gordon Street, Hannington, Hatheway, McPherson, Pickard, Botsford, Robinson, Gray, and Ritchie—17. Nays—Messrs. Thomson, Barberie, Chapman, Tilley, Taylor, Stiles, Porter, McLeod, McPhelim, Fitzgerald, Crane, Cutler, Gilbert, Montgomery, Johnson, Needham—16.

The house then went into supply. Fifty pounds, instead of one hundred asked for, was voted to the Commissioners of public buildings. Six hundred pounds to Mr Simpson for printing Journals, and towards printing laws. Twenty five pounds to the widow of Dr Collins.

Fifty pounds was granted to two appraisers in St. John. Fifty pounds to the Emigrant Agent at St. Andrews. One hundred pounds for a packet to West Isles and Campo Bello. Twelve pounds to Dr Smith for attending three wounded policemen in Portland in the year 1847. Five hundred pounds on motion of Mr Gray for the encouragement of the Fisheries. Two hundred pounds for exploring a Road to Restigouche, and blank sums for postage and contingencies of the House.

On motion of Mr Earle, the Resolution on Initiation was reconsidered. Messrs Botsford, Ritchie and McPherson of the former majority agreed to it, and therefore it was carried, as was also the amendment proposed by Mr Needham, that the question lie over till next session.

Mr Gilbert's College Bill was thrown out at the third reading.

Mr Hannington laid before the House, the Reply of the Governor to the Address on the same subject adopted yesterday, in accordance with the Resolutions already published.

Mr Gray moved a Resolution that all accounts of commissioner for expenditure on public buildings, or purchase of articles for the use of Government House, be in future laid on the table on the first day of Session, and that the house grant no money for accounts not duly laid on the table.

April 26.

On motion of Mr Gray, the Bill to give further facility to the European and North American Railway was taken into consideration and passed by a majority of seventeen to fifteen.

Messrs Montgomery, Earle, Gordon, Johnson, Street and Cutler spoke against it. The chief argument was that it had been brought up too late in the Session—that they should pause before giving further grants.

Mr Street said if he thought this necessary for the success of the undertaking he would not oppose it, but thought they should pause

until a survey had been made, and they had obtained more information.

Mr Partelow who voted against it made a speech as much in favor as otherwise. Mr Rankin also opposed it.

Mr Barberie spoke repeatedly against it. Messrs. Gray, Hannington, Ritchie, Needham, Scoullar and Robinson spoke in favor of the Bill.

Some slight amendments are under consideration—one is empowering the government to give licences for lumbering on the land until the stock is paid up.

The bill gives five miles of all ungranted lands on each side of the line.

SECOND DESPATCH.

The Railway Facility Bill was read a third time, after much confusion, and a determined opposition from Messrs Barberie and Johnson.

Division on third reading: Yeas—Messrs. Ritchie, Hannington, Scoullar, Crane, Chapman, Tilley, Williston, Purdy, Botsford Ryan, McLeod, Willmot, Needham, Gray, Porter, Robinson, Fitzgerald, and Hayward—18. Nays—Messrs. Rankin, Street, Partelow, Stiles, Gordon, Earle, Montgomery, Barberie, Taylor, English, Johnson, Beardsley, McPhelim, Cutler and Gilbert—15.

On motion of the Attorney General the House went into consideration of a Bill to fix the salaries of the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, and the Secretary, immediate—those of the Surveyor and Auditor Generals, and the abolition of the office of Receiver General, in prospective.

Mr Street stated that he did not think that Secretary's or Solicitor's Salaries were too high. That of the Attorney General might be reduced to five hundred pounds. He used his former arguments to show why the other salaries should only be dealt with in prospective.

Mr Gilbert proposed a list of Salaries, beginning with the Governor at one thousand pounds, to be taken *en masse*, as this was the only way a reduction could be effected; if taken one by one nothing could be done. This amendment was declared unparliamentary and was lost.

Mr Johnson proposed an amendment to make an immediate reduction in the office of Governor, Surveyor, Auditor, Master of the Rolls, and others, and the abolition of the Receiver General's office.

Mr Ritchie said the Bill amounted to nothing; it would effect a saving of only one hundred pounds.

The speaker advocated a reduction in the offices of Surveyor and Auditor General. The Receiver General's office should be abolished. The agreement made by the house with the Master of the Rolls should be adhered to, and the reduction of the Government should be prospective.

Mr Willmot thought we should pay no salary to the Governor. The home government should pay him while he was nominated by them—if he was elected, then he would pay him £1500.

Mr Partelow thought while so high a salary was paid by the Province to the Governor people must be discontented; they should fix what the Province would pay, and let the Home Government pay what besides they might think sufficient to support the dignity of the office.

Mr Street agreed that a reduction should be made for future Governors, but it would be indelicate to ask the Governor to sign a Bill reducing his successors' salary. The proper mode of proceeding would be by address.

Mr Gray repeated what he had before said of reduction of salaries—thought for future Governor £1500 was sufficient—had a right to reduce other salaries but it would be impolitic.

Mr Barberie said the men who clamoured for reduction had gone away.

Mr Taylor thought it too late to introduce so important a measure.

Mr Earle was not satisfied with the Bill, it did not go far enough. He thought it best to proceed both by Bill and remonstrance.

Mr Crane said if they really desired reduction they had better separate what they could effect from what they could not, than destroy both by joining them.

Mr Cutler thought £1000 too low a salary for the Governor.

Mr Robinson said they had reduced other salaries one-fifth, and would they reduce this £2000, and make the salary lower than that of the Governor of Prince Edward's Island? Progress was reported.—The question is to be resumed on Monday morning.—*St. John Morning News.*

## Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI,

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MAY 5, 1851.

### EUROPEAN NEWS.

By the arrival of the Royal Mail Steamer Niagara, at Halifax, on Tuesday last, in a passage of 11 days, we have obtained papers to the 19th April. We have made numerous selections from them in another page, to which we refer our readers for a summary of the news, in reference to the affairs of the European world.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—A Dwelling House, in Woodstock, owned by Mr Stephen Parsons, and occupied by Mr Betts, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday week.

### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

We have devoted considerable space to-day to Legislative matters. We shall continue to publish the speeches of the leading members on both sides, on the important debate which took place on Mr Ritchie's Resolutions, introduced while the House was in Committee on the State of the Province. The *St. John Freeman* contains the following sensible remarks on this debate:—

"After a debate of four days, the House of Assembly has decided that the Constitution of this Province is still inviolate, and that the Government still possess the confidence of the country.

"The main points on which the charges preferred against the Government on this occasion were founded, are, that the late appointments having been made by the Colonial Secretary, contrary to the expressed opinion of the Executive Council, the Executive did not follow the constitutional course and resign; that having acknowledged certain salaries to be extravagant, and the general expenditure excessive, they did not, as was their duty, introduce any measures of retrenchment; and that the Attorney General, by the principles he enunciated relative to the despatches, demonstrated that the administration of this Government must be detrimental to the interests of the Province. The first, though not less important, contains no censure on the Government, simply asserting the right of the House to copies of despatches, and was supported by an overwhelming majority.

"It is plain that the majority voted as they did, not because they disapproved of the principles enunciated (if we must use the word) in the Resolutions, the justice and truth of which are evidently incontrovertible; or because they approved of the petty subterfuge of the Government in proposing such amendments as theirs, which, while they admitted the principles, confined their application to the future, and excused their past policy; but because, considering it a question of Want of Confidence, they were determined to support the Government at any price. But whatever the motion, the vote that acknowledged the right of a Colonial Secretary to appoint to office in this Province of his own mere motion, and to direct and controul the internal policy as may suit his idea of what is advantageous to the Colonies, must be regarded by the people of this Province, as a betrayal and abandonment of their rights, for the sake of upholding a tottering government. We cannot believe that any men in this country are so utterly regardless of their privileges and rights as citizens of a free state as meanly, willingly to admit, that the constitution of the country is not based on the broad, firm foundation of the inherent, inalienable rights of the people, but on the breath of a Colonial Minister, and files of despatches, and speeches of my Lord this and Earl that; or that the constitution we now possess may be cancelled by the stroke of a pen. Yet, such is the effect of the vote of Thursday evening. The alteration was, we confess, a trying one to the men who believed that the present government was the best to be got; but to preserve that government, they have declared that the Colonial minister may do or undo as he pleases, without provoking further opposition to his will than a "grave remonstrance." Self-government is the right of the people of this, as of every other country, not held by virtue of charter or despatch, and not dependant on the will of any minister or any Parliament. We do not pretend to say that any act of the House of Assembly has forfeited what is in itself inalienable; but as far as the rights and liberties of the people of this Province can be affected by the acts of that House, so far have they been betrayed by their vote of Thursday.

"The salaries, the government will set about reducing. There are not many of these, perhaps, too high; but there are some which must be reduced. The Executive, making a virtue of necessity, will now bring down a measure of this kind, but for any measure they now introduce, the country will give them little credit.

"How the Government is to work beneficially with such a majority as they can command, it is difficult to see. They must yield on every question of importance to the opposition, and endeavor to carry out a policy inconsistent with their own political creed, if they have one.—Without credit or principle, depending on a mere majority within the House, and pronounced by the people to be unworthy of the power, which by the treachery of the people's representatives, they hold contrary to the well understood wishes of the people, their position is at best an unenviable one; but for the well being of the Province, and the protection of their rights and liberties, the people must depend on themselves."

We are indebted to the Head Quarters for the following summary of the proceedings of the Legislature, as well as the speech of His Excellency in closing the Session:—

"On Monday a bill passed imposing a duty on the exportation of Hacmatack knees, of 2s. per dozen. The Attorney General's bill for the reduction of salaries was postponed until the next meeting of the Legislature, by a majority of four. Mr Crane's resolution to reduce the salary of the future Lieutenant Governor, was carried by a large majority. Mr Partelow introduced and carried a resolution authorising the refunding of the duty of 2s. per bushel on wheat imported into this Province.