

to get rid of it by a sort of half measure.—He wished to let himself down from the position which he last year assumed in an easy sort of way, by introducing a resolution calling for information. He would not allow the hon. and learned member to escape by this by-path, and before he sat down he would introduce an amendment to this resolution, which would test the feeling of that House on the real question, which was to be decided before the country for the last twelve months. If the hon. and learned member was persuaded that this measure was really called for—that it was necessary for the public service—that the property of the people of Fredericton should be sacrificed for the public good, and that the Seat of Government should be removed, why did he stop to enquire about the cost? If the measure was thus necessary, the cost was a matter of no importance, and the determination of the value of property here must not stand in the way of the general interests of the country. Convince him by sound reason and rational argument that the exigencies of this country demanded the sacrifice, and although his own property was here, he, for one, would say, let the Seat of Government go to Saint John. But such was not advanced, and all that the hon. mover had thought proper to do was to introduce this resolution, seeking for further information, and would leave this important matter hanging over the heads of the people of Fredericton for another year. This would not do; if the Seat of Government was to be removed, remove it at once.—Let the people of this section of the country know what they had to do, not let them be shuffled about and left in the dark by this half-and-half kind of legislation. He must tell the hon. and learned mover, that the agitation of this question had already seriously affected the value of property in this City, and had in some instances prevented improvements, which, had it not been for this foolish and mischievous movement, would have proceeded. Why should the hon. member, at a time like the present, when all the energy which they all possessed, should be brought to bear on other matters for the public benefit—why at such a time should they have this question thrown in amongst them to induce them to split and fall asunder? Was the finances of the Province in such a flourishing condition that they could afford to experiment in this matter, and destroy the property of the people of this city, at the expense some thirty, forty, fifty or a hundred thousand pounds to the people of this Province. He did not know what calculation the hon. mover had made of the expense of this measure, but he presumed it could not be accomplished short of the least sum he had mentioned, and might cost more than the greatest; but the expense, great as it necessarily must be, was not. He repeated again, that if the measure was demanded by the exigencies of the public service—convince him that the measure was demanded to be subservient to the general interests of this Province, and neither the expense nor the injury which must follow to the owners of property in this city, and in the surrounding country, would prevent from adopting the measure. But unless this could be shewn, until the hon. mover could make out a case sufficiently strong to warrant the interference to this extent with private rights, which he believed could never be done, and which he did not think the hon. member ever contemplated he could do, he must resist such a resolution as that just offered. He did not know what had urged his hon. friend to move in the matter at all, but he could tell him this much, if he thought to immortalize himself by sowing seed of dissension among those who ought to live as members of one family, he was not likely to gain much by his motion. If he wished to make political capital out of this movement he would be sure to fail in his speculation. If he thought of keeping the matter hanging over the heads of his (Mr. Wilnot's) constituents for another year, he would most certainly find himself mistaken, for he had taken liberty of preparing a resolution, which he would move as an amendment to that offered by the hon. and learned member, which would bring broadly before the country the opinion of that House on the real question which was raised.—He therefore moved to strike out the whole of the said resolution, and insert:

"Resolved, As the opinion of this House, that while great injury and injustice must accrue to the inhabitants of Fredericton and the surrounding country, from the protracted agitation of the question of the Removal of the Seat of Government, no such advantages can arise from the removal thereof as to justify the abandonment of the public property in Fredericton, and the expenditure of so large a portion of the Revenue as must unavoidably take place for its accomplishment."

This would bring the matter fairly up and they would ascertain whether the House thought that the removal of the Seat of Government was necessary, before they made enquiries what it would cost. One word about the Petitions. It was a singular fact that the Petition from Kent, and the petition from Westmorland were couched in the very same language; the latter was verbatim a copy of the former, and they had both no doubt been prepared and ground over in the same mill; but neither the Petitioners nor the hon. mover had informed the House what new light was to break in upon them after this removal was effected. They had not told them what new wisdom they were to acquire by being removed to St. John. They had shown no benefit whatever to derived from the movement, nor

could he conceive it possible that there could be any, unless, perhaps, the personal convenience of the hon. mover, and some other hon. members from the City. The hon. mover had told them that "I am satisfied with the benefits which is to result to the Province from this change, I have made up mind about the expenses, I can see no difficulty in its accomplishment." But by what extraordinary process of reasoning the hon. member had arrived at these conclusions he had not deigned to inform the Committee. He, perhaps, arrived at his conclusions as George Bidder, the Yankee Mathematician, arrived at his—by a sort of intuition the calculator could give the result required, but could give no account of the process by which he arrived at the conclusion. It was the same with his hon. friend, he had arrived at a certain conclusion, but could give no reason for the faith that was in him.—He had even failed to point out, either by the petitions which were introduced to support him, or by any thing which had fallen from himself, any evil which had arisen to the country from having the Seat of Government where it now was. They had legislated here for the last fifty-five years, and he would say this much, the Legislation of this Province during that period the only thing to be taken into the calculation—would bear a comparison with any Colony of the Empire during the same period, and would not suffer by the comparison either. They had discussed the most important questions in the hall where he then stood, and had arrived at conclusions without involving themselves in personal strife, or the country in a state of political agitation, which disturbed the peace of private families. They had antagonism here and they would have antagonism among them where ever they were, but he knew of nothing in or about Fredericton that had hindered their legislating for the public benefit, as well, and perhaps better, than they could do in Saint John. Hon. members would recollect that in large places it was not always so pleasant to legislate on some subjects; and if such questions came before that House, when in St. John, the pressure from without would, perhaps, be greater than would be for the convenience of hon. members. They would recollect that in another colony this kind of persuasion had been carried to the length of openly insulting members of the legislature in the public streets. Nothing of this kind had ever taken place here: the people of this city and the Representatives of the people had always lived in good fellowship together. The right hand of fellowship and of hospitality had always been extended to them whenever they came here.—Why then seek to go away from a place where neither in their public capacity nor as private gentlemen had they any reason to find fault?—There was no privilege which could be enjoyed in St. John as Legislators which could not as well be enjoyed here; and the simple fact was St. John did not want the Legislature taken down there at all. The hon. mover did, but the bulk of the mercantile community did not, for he had that information from some of themselves. Nature had given St. John advantages which neither the Legislature being there nor Legislation after it was removed, could bestow or take away. Give Fredericton the harbour of St. John, situated at the mouth of this magnificent river, and they might take the Legislature where they pleased, but situated as they were, to come now, after a lapse of fifty years, and propose to take from them the only privileges which they enjoy, and carry them to St. John, where they already had so many, was like the owner of the large flock coming to the poor widow and taking from her the only ewe lamb she had left. (Hear, hear.) He was delighted that the City of St. John was prospering, he rejoiced in the prosperity of any part of the Province, but he could not agree to the doctrine that St. John should have every thing and the other parts of the Province nothing. He wished to see the south and the north served alike. He wished to see the Seodic and the Restigouche participate equally in the benefits of Legislation, and if it could be shown by any process of calculation which the ingenuity of the hon. mover of this resolution could devise, that this could be better accomplished by the Seat of Government being removed to St. John, let it go there. If it could be shown that Legislation would be benefited by taking the Seat of Government any where else than where it now was, let it go; but he apprehended that this had not and could not be shown. Why then should the elements of discord be thrown into the country on a subject which must create feeling among his constituents who had embarked large sums of money in the purchase of property in this city and in the surrounding country, on the faith that the Seat of Government, which has now been here for upwards of half a century, would not be removed. To take away the Seat of Government now, would be to depreciate the value of their property, and he did not know if the hon. mover had taken the loss of the people of Fredericton and of the inhabitants of the County of York, generally into his calculation of the expense which he had satisfied his mind, would be incurred by this change; but this he could tell him, it would involve private rights to a greater sum than perhaps at present he had any idea of.—He repeated again that this was no time to introduce subjects which must of necessity create discord. It was introduced at a late period of the Session, at a late hour of the day, and at a time when the attention of this Legislature should be occupied with measures which were

practicable for the general benefit of the country. The hon. mover of this resolution would find that the oftener he tried to move in this matter, the more ground he would lose, until he would be left alone, the only advocate on the floor of that House of a measure which might disturb and retard the improvement of this part of the Province, but which would never be carried into effect, as it must seriously damage the best interests of the country. He did not know what arguments his hon. friend was about to advance in support of his measure; he did not know whether that hon. gentleman thought that it would take thirty thousand or a hundred thousand pounds to accomplish his object, but this he did know, that let the cost be what it might the proper way was to decide first if there existed any necessity, or if there were any grounds to move in the matter at all. The hon. member said that his Resolution would involve no expense, and that gentleman could be found to give their service for nothing. He would look with some suspicion on a report coming gratuitously from such Commissioners. They had some unpaid reports before this time; and to keep the matter lying over for another year would only be throwing obstacles in the way of improvement in this City, without any proportionate benefit. It might, perhaps, immortalize the hon. member; it might bring him prominently before the public through the Press; it might sound well among a certain class of his constituents; it might even furnish a little political capital for the hon. and learned member, but he could assure the hon. and learned member that the intelligence among his own constituency was against him; his colleagues were not with him; and he hoped a very large majority of that House was entirely opposed to his agitation of this subject. He could not go further into the matter unless he heard what the hon. member proposed to do, and how he meant to accomplish his object, but whatever was done he begged the Committee to release the people of Fredericton from the state of suspense in which the agitation of this question must necessarily involve them. He begged that they would affirm the amendment, and if they would not do this, that they would at once resolve that the Seat of Government be removed to St. John, but whatever they did, he implored them not to keep this matter hanging over the heads of his constituents for another year. He would therefore move his amendment.

I omitted in my last to give you the names of the members on the division. The following is the amendment proposed by Mr. Street, and the names of members present on the division:—

"Resolved, That inasmuch as the removal of the Seat of Government from Fredericton to the City of St. John must be attended with a very heavy expense, without being productive of any benefit to the general interests of the Province, it is inexpedient to pass any Resolution, authorising the appointment of Commissioners to inquire into the probable expenses thereof."

Yeas—Hon. Mr. Rankin, Hon. Mr. Baillie, Messrs. Boyd, Brown, Cranney, Carman, Street, Tibbits, L. A. Wilnot, Fisher, Taylor, Hayward, Miles, Gilbert, Connell, Partelow, Montgomery, Smith, Wark, End, Porter, McLeod, Read, and Thomson.

Nays—Messrs. Barberie, Steves, Hanington, R. D. Wilnot, Landry, Ritchie, Botsford, Vail, Jordan, and Woodward.

There is some talk of the Legislature going down to St. John, for the purpose of passing the Revenue Bill, and some other important Bills passed by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, should His Excellency unfortunately be unable to come up to the Seat of Government, in time to give his assent to these important Bills; but I believe nothing definite is known on this point at present.

Yours, &c.

STZIGIA.

FREDERICTON, 22d March, 1848.

DEAR SIR,—This morning Mr. Partelow moved a resolution that no sum should be entered on the supply book, for the purpose of being moved in supply after Saturday, the 25th instant. This was thought by some hon. members to be too short a time for some of the committees to bring in their reports, and after some discussion, the time was extended to Monday the 27th inst., after which day no grant can be entered on the supply book, unless by message from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor. This is the first symptom of an approaching end to the business of the session, but it is probable the House cannot rise until the end of the week after next.

On motion of Mr. Partelow, the House went into committee of the whole in further consideration of a bill to enable the Justices of the Peace to levy an assessment on the inhabitants of the Parish of Portland, to pay off the expenses incurred in preserving the public peace in that Parish.

Mr. Partelow stated that it had been the intention to fill up the blank in the bill with the sum of £800, but as the House had very kindly granted them £300 already to help to liquidate these expenses, it would now become necessary to fill the blank with the smaller sum of £500. The bill had been read on a previous occasion, and he presumed there could be no objection to its passing, he would therefore move that it be now read section by section. The bill was then passed section by section, and reported as agreed to without amendment.

On motion of Mr. Partelow the bill relating to throwing saw dust into the waters of the Harbor of Saint John was committed, and on the motion of the same hon. member the further consideration of this bill was postponed until the next sitting of the Legislature.

On motion of Mr. Partelow hon. members were called to their places and the House proceeded to the order of the day, which was to go into the fur-

ther consideration of supplies to be granted for the public service.

A number of grants passed without further discussion, until a grant, moved by Mr. Vail, to remunerate Mr. Arnold, Deputy Surveyor, for monies due him on seizures made of Lumber for which bonds had been taken by the Crown, but which had not been collected, consequently Mr. Arnold did not get his fees from the Government. This grant was not sustained.

A grant of £100 for the purpose of deepening the channel leading into Dark Harbour, in the Island of Grand Manan, moved by Mr. Woodward, also created a rather animated debate. This grant was sustained. The principal, indeed the only regular debate which occurred to-day, arose on a grant moved by Mr. Brown for £750, to remunerate George & J. M. Porter, of the parish of St. Stephens, for losses sustained by them in erecting of dams and sluices for the purpose of conveying lumber to their Mills from a Mill Reserve which, after these erections had been made, was sold by the Government to Col. Marks, of the same place. This debate has been reported at least three different times, having been before the Legislature as many times previous to this year, and the circumstances connected with this transaction was familiar to every member of the House of Assembly, and is also familiar to the public. Mr. Partelow having briefly opposed the grant, Mr. Brown opened the debate in one of his most earnest moods, and repeatedly pressed the claims of those parties with great force on the attention of the Committee. There had previously been three reports of Select Committees on the matter, two of which sustained the claim, and one rejected it.

The hon. Mr. Baillie gave a very lengthy statement of the whole transaction and produced a number of different documents to shew the different bearings of the whole affair, and closed his remarks by a declaration of his belief that the parties making the application had some claim in equity on the consideration of the House.

Mr. Partelow, during the debate, bore with great severity on the Surveyor General having allowed a discount of one fifth to Col. Marks, the purchaser, contending that this discount should not have been allowed unless by positive directions of the Executive Government and maintaining that by a blunder of the Surveyor General, this Province had lost £800. He also repeated a variety of objections which on former occasions he had urged against the Grant.

Hon. Mr. Baillie replied that when he could please his Worship the Mayor, by anything which he did, he would make a notch on his door, or a mark on his hand, that he might see it every day. Mr. Baillie then read an extract from the regulations of 1843 which prescribed this discount to be given for prompt payment, without specifying anything about its being only to be made on land sold for actual settlement.

Mr. Brown answered the arguments of His Worship the Mayor at great length, urging most earnestly the justice of the claim which he advocated, and was followed by Mr. Boyd on the same side. After a very protracted debate the resolution was sustained—yeas 18, nays 14.

On the question of filling the blank with £750, the House again divided, when the motion was negatived by a larger majority than had sustained the resolution. It was then moved to fill the blank with £500, when there appeared yeas 16, nays 16, when the Chairman, Mr. Botsford, decided the question in favor of the grant.

The House then resumed and the resolutions were reported, and the chairman asked leave to sit again to-morrow.

A number of motions for leave to enter grants on the supply book were then made, and among others one by Mr. Woodward to grant to the Librarian £25, in addition to the grant already passed for his services. This was opposed, as the question had already been decided; but the motion being pressed, the House divided equally; when this was known, a number of hon. members who were about the lobby came to their places, and when the members were again counted, the division was again found equal—yeas 16, nays 16.

His honor the Speaker said the House would best consult its own dignity by refusing to entertain a second time a question which had once been fairly decided. He therefore felt it his duty to go against the application to place this grant on the Supply Book. It being late, several impatient motions were made to adjourn, which was finally carried by something approaching to acclamation, although Mr. Brown seemed anxious to get in some paper which he held in his hand; but the question having been put before his application reached the chair, his voice was drowned in the loud yeas which responded to the Speaker.

Yours, &c.

STZIGIA.

IMPORTANT FROM VENEZUELA.—FLIGHT OF THE WHITE POPULATION.—By the arrival of the brig Orbit, Captain Anderson, 23 days from Porto Cabello, we are in possession of most exciting intelligence from this republic.

We learn that the white inhabitants of La Guayra and Caradão are flying in all directions from the vengeance of the black and colored ties, and have assumed so menacing an attitude towards the whites, as to inspire them with a dread of being murdered if they remained.

The party of Monagas, the President and Fourierite leader of the blacks, himself a creole, were going about the streets, with armed gangs, and impressing all the mixed races or blacks they could find. One colored carman was forcibly dragged from his cart and carried off; and the impressment is going on daily.

It was rumored from the interior that the whole of the country was on the eve of a general revolution, and that the celebrated General Paez was making great efforts to rally the whites.

The white population along the sea-coast were