

friend had but referred to the recent English Election Bills he would have found that the Government had adopted measures for the protection of the rights of minorities. He (Mr. Boyd) felt that the course that had been pursued by the Dominion Government in reference to Nova Scotia would tend to destroy the confidence of the people in what is called responsible government, and that it would open the doors to aggression. The honourable member for Algoma had asked were they going to lay down the doctrine that we are to be ruled from Downing street? He answered that they were not. The very Act uniting the Provinces was the result of addresses passed in the different legislatures which showed upon their face the wishes of the people. Nor was he prepared to admit that this Legislature had not the power to enter into a discussion of this question. We were born into political life at one, and the same time with the Dominion Government, and by means of the same Act, and we had certain prerogatives co-incident and co-ordinate with those that the Dominion possess. Therefore, he believed, that we had a right to go to the foot of the Throne and lay our grievances there. Was it not the Provincial Legislatures that first discussed this question, and had not Provincial delegates considered it. He contended that because we had surrendered some of our powers when we entered the Confederation, we were not to allow the central power to override us, while we stood by as idle spectators. If we, in our Provincial character, had in the first instance pronounced upon this matter, why should we not now, in our Provincial character, pronounce upon it again? He believed that no more deadly blow could be aimed at Confederation, than this power claimed by the Dominion Government, and he was sorry to see that the party of Independence in Canada were using it as an argument for the severance of the cord which binds us to the Mother Country. (Hear, hear) He believed that, although, the people of this country are not indulging in loud expressions of dissatisfaction, there were among them some murmurings of discontent, for they felt that all their sacrifices of the past were being counted as nothing.

Mr. FERGUSON said the question had been discussed in the Dominion Parliament both as to the legality and necessity of the subsidy. The necessity was already shown, inasmuch as it clearly demonstrated that the Nova Scotian Government could not go on without it, and this the hon. gentleman himself could not deny. All he argued was against its legality, and he had staked his reputation as a lawyer as to its unconstitutionality. The member for Toronto had done likewise. At first he was inclined to believe it was so, and in accordance with the belief so created in his mind, he had voted with the hon. gentleman against his own party. The subsidy had been given, and the hon. gentleman had himself introduced a clause to the effect that "no more should be given." Did he not then open the door for such subsidies? And now he comes here and confesses the power of the Dominion Parliament to cover his folly, and he should like to know how he could come up and ask them to go to the Queen to take from Parliament the power which he himself had conceded it had. To ask the Queen to disallow this act which the Law Officers of the Crown had pronounced unconstitutional was something extraordinary. The 7th resolution asked that the financial arrangements between Canada and Nova Scotia should not and cannot be changed. He conceded the "should not," but he could not see the "cannot," when the thing had been actually done (Laughter). The great aim in the financial arrangements between the Provinces was to give to each as much from the general fund as would allow them to administer their affairs as well after as before Confederation. He had opposed the subsidy, and would have let Nova Scotia go rather than grant it. But it was granted, and it could not now be rescinded. When the Nova Scotians went to England for redress they were sent back to the Dominion Government for that redress. And a majority of the representatives of every Province in the Dominion had voted for the subsidy, which was to remedy the redress they asked for. How, then, could they, as a local Legislature, interfere in the matter. He believed they had a right to petition, but they should ask for something they could expect. Why should they waste their time and their thoughts in discussing a question like this, out of which nothing practical could come. If the hon. gentleman had come up and said, "This Nova Scotia matter is settled and the money given; let us approach the Dominion Parliament and the Queen, so to amend the Constitution as to prevent a recurrence of the thing," he would have his (Mr. Ferguson's) hearty support, and would have done something wise and discreet. The hon. member for Prescott took a different view of the matter. He thought they should have had a debt of \$11,000,000 on entering the Confederation. That idea was no new one; but he had made some calculations on the point, and he had found that, by doing so, Ontario, instead of gaining, would have lost. He regretted the introduction of the resolutions. They could produce no good effect, and he could not see that anything practical could result from them. If his hon. friend would move for a general amendment of the Confederation Act, to prevent such a thing recurring, he would support him. If they went for redress to their Queen, and were refused it, their only course left, if they stuck to their request, was either to rebel or go into annexation. (Oh! no) Gentlemen might cry "Oh! no," but that was the legitimate result of the course, if persisted in. (Cheers)

Mr. FRASER would vote cordially for the motion. The matter before them was an important one, for if a stop were not put to this system no one could tell where it might end. The Provincial Secretary had said this was not the place to discuss the matter, but if they saw danger in the way, had they not a right to approach the Throne and ask assistance to remove the danger? The Provincial Secretary had asked *Cui bono*. But the fact was, \$2,000,000 had already been given away contrary to the Constitution. Was that to go on? It had been said they had no right to criticize past legislation.

Such a statement was absurd, for how otherwise could defective legislation be remedied and amended? The gentlemen on his side of the House were not opposed to emendation of the Constitution, all they asked for was that such emendation should be gone about in an orderly and a legal manner. He was desirous to hear the Provincial Treasurer say something on the subject, for after what he had said at Ottawa, he did not see how he could refuse to support the resolutions before the House. (Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. WOOD said there had always been a contention as to the proportion paid by Ontario to the general revenues, and he gave some of the statistics in reference to the point, to the effect that Ontario paid two-thirds or three-fourths to the one-third or one-quarter paid by Quebec. He was not prepared to take back one jot or tittle of what he had said in reference to this subject. He was not convinced that the grant to Nova Scotia was in accordance with the limitations prescribed by the Constitution. That was his conviction, but there was no doubt that he was wrong, for the Solicitor-General said so. (Laughter.) He was bound by the law. If the address was to be sent to the Queen she would have to be guided by the opinion of her law officers, who had already pronounced in favour of the Act, and, therefore, on the ground of expediency, he did not think it their duty to agree to the address moved. To do so would not be consistent with reason, judgment or good sense. They had an undoubted right to petition by the Constitution. Some compensation was due to Nova Scotia. Since it was unfavourable to the Union, and the increased grants which had been made were only in proportion to that made to New Brunswick. Some able statistics were given on this point. The British Government did not go about computing how much money she spent on the different parts of her empire. Her aim had been to build up and consolidate a great and noble commonwealth. We must act in the same manner. In coming to a decision on the matter, this House has to consider, whether by adopting these resolutions they were prepared to give such vast strength and power to the opponents of Confederation in Nova Scotia, as such an act would give them. She might depend upon it the Crown would not interfere in the matter, besides, by adopting the resolutions they would array the whole of the lower Provinces against Ontario.

Mr. McCALL moved the adjournment of the House, but it not being seconded it fell through.

Mr. BLAKE replied to the arguments on the other side, and then dwelt upon the importance of the principle affirmed in the 13th resolution, and said he particularly desired the attention of the House to it. He believed he should have accomplished a very great object for the country, and a very great part of the object he had in view in moving these resolutions, if he should be able to carry the 13th resolution alone, even if all the others failed. It was so framed, as not to acknowledge that the Parliament of Canada had the power to pass the Act in question, nor to deny it. But it simply said, whatever the Constitution meant, and whether it meant what he and the Treasurer thought, or what the English law officers thought—there should be such legislation as would prevent any disturbance of these financial arrangements.

Mr. FERGUSON made some remarks in reply to Mr. Blake.

Mr. GOW briefly supported the Resolutions.

The House then divided on Mr. Cameron's amendment for the six months' host to Mr. Blake's first resolution. The amendment was carried—Yeas 42, Nays 35.

YEAS—Boulter, Calvin, Cameron, Carling, Carling (Huron), Carnegie, Clarke, Code, Colquhoun, Corby, Coyne, Craig (Glengarry), Cumberland, Ferguson, Fitzsimmons, Graham (Hastings), Grahams (York), Hooper, Lauder, Lount, Luton, Lyon, Macdonald, Matchett, Monteith, McCall (Norfolk), McColl (Elgin), McGill, Read, Richards, Rykert, Scott (Grey), Scott (Ottawa), Smith (Kent), Smith (Leeds), Strange, Tett, Walls, Wigle, Williams (Durham), Wilson, Wood—42.

NAYS—Barber, Baxter, Beatty, Blake, Boyd, Christie, Clemens, Cockburn, Cook, Crosby, Currie, Evans, Eyre, Finlayson, Fraser, Galbraith, Gow, Greely, Hays, McDougall, McKellar, McKim, McLeod, McMurrich, Oliver, Pardee, Paxton, Perry, Secord, Sexton, Sinclair, Smith (Middlesex), Springer, Trow, Williams (Hamilton)—35.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON moved the same amendment to each of the other resolutions. The amendment was carried, with reference to the resolutions from the 2nd to the 12th inclusive on the same division of 42 to 35. The same amendment being moved by Hon. Mr. Cameron to the 13th resolution, was negatived. Yeas 31, Nays 46.

YEAS—Boulter, Calvin, Cameron, Carling, Carling, Carnegie, Clarke, Corby, Coyne, Craig, Cumberland, Graham (Hastings), Hooper, Lauder, Lyon, Macdonald, Matchett, McCall, McColl, McGill, Richard, Rykert, Scott, Scott, Smith, (Leeds); Strange, Tett, Walls, Wigle, Williams, (Durham); Wood—31.

NAYS—Barber, Baxter, Beatty, Blake, Boyd, Christie, Clemens, Cockburn, Code, Colquhoun, Cook, Crosby, Currie, Evans, Eyre, Ferguson, Finlayson, Fitzsimmons, Fraser, Galbraith, Gow, Graham, (York); Gray, Hays, Lount, Luton, Monteith, McDougall, McKellar, McKim, McLeod, McMurrich, Oliver, Pardee, Paxton, Perry, Read, Secord, Sexton, Sinclair, Smith, (Kent); Smith, (Middlesex); Springer, Trow, Williams, (Hamilton); Wilson—46.

The House then divided on the 13th resolution, which was carried. Yeas 64, Nays 12.

YEAS—Barber, Baxter, Beatty, Blake, Boyd, Calvin, Cameron, Carling (Huron), Carnegie, Christie, Clemens, Cockburn, Code, Colquhoun, Cook, Craig, (Glengarry) Crosby, Cumberland, Currie, Evans, Eyre, Finlayson, Fitzsimmons, Fraser, Galbraith, Gow, Graham, Grahams, Greely, Hays, Hooper, Lauder, Lount, Luton, Macdonald, Monteith, McColl, McDougall, McKellar, McKim, McLeod, McMurrich, Oliver, Pardee, Paxton, Perry, Read, Richards, Secord, Sexton, Sinclair, Smith (Kent), Smith (Leeds), Smith (Middlesex), Strange, Springer, Trow, Walls, Wigle, Williams (Durham), Williams (Hamilton), Wilson, Wood—64.

NAYS—Boulter, Clarke, Corby, Coyne, Hooper, Lyon, Matchett, McGill, Rykert, Scott (Grey), Scott (Ottawa), Tett—12.

On motion of Atty. Gen. MACDONALD, the House then adjourned at half-past twelve.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following notices of motion have been given:—

Mr. COCKBURN—Bill to erect certain townships in the district of Muskoka into municipalities, and to organise the country

of Muskoka for municipal and other purposes.

Mr. SPRINGER—Enquiry whether the Government intend to introduce, during the present Session, a measure based upon the petition of the County Council of the County of Waterloo, presented to this House in December last, praying that an Act be passed, making it compulsory for counties to erect Houses of Industry and Refuge, or by enacting a proper Settlement Law as to the poor, and giving to those counties that have erected such houses, the power to retain the poor belonging to other counties, and for changing such other counties with the expenses of returning to them their poor.