

Mr. WOOD admitted that he had spoken on the clause. He thought, however, that it was desirable to have a full discussion. The Attorney General intended to have been present, but he had suddenly become ill, and in his absence he hoped he would be allowed to proceed.

Mr. BLAKE had no objection on condition that a similar privilege should be accorded to other members who might desire to reply to the hon. Treasurer's remarks.

Mr. WOOD then proceeded with his remarks. He would, he said, first refer again to the question of the arbitration. He asked the hon. member for South Bruce whether he could point to any article or speech of any individual in Quebec where the objection of his holding a commissionership was made to Col. Gray, as taken by Mr. Blake?

Mr. WOOD taking his seat,

Mr. BLAKE rose and said that he had not agreed that the hon. gentleman should put a series of interrogatories to him. He would answer them in due season. (Laughter.)

Mr. WOOD said: With regard to the charge of imprudence brought against the Government for having precipitated a decision on the preliminary question, the hon. member knew that the Government had refused *in toto* to go into the matter on the principle of any partnership whatever. Quebec's proposition that the matter should be treated on the principle of a partnership, in which the assets brought in and those taken out should only be considered and the whole period during the partnership not be considered at all, would if admitted have settled the award at once. But the counter proposition of Ontario was that if you take that principle of partnership at all you must take it right through. And this, he thought, the hon. member for South Bruce would admit, would be, according to law, proper and correct, while the proposition of Quebec was simply monstrous. If they took the Customs' duties collected at Quebec, Montreal, and St. John's, and divided them equally, they found these startling results: That from local sources in Upper Canada about \$75,000,000 was paid in revenue, and from local sources in Quebec about \$35,000,000. There was during that period expended on local objects, in Upper Canada, \$16,000,000, in round sum, and in Quebec \$19,000,000. (Hear, hear.) The gentlemen representing Quebec knew this perfectly, and they would not listen to the proposal. The proposition on the part of Ontario was to let bygones be bygones, that each should take their own property; and that if the proposed plan was proceeded with, that the result would be startling to the whole country, and least of all satisfactory to Quebec. The course presented to the arbitrators was to enter into the discussion on the ordinary principle of partnership, or take it on the principle of population, or, as the only other alternative, they had to find out what caused the excess of debt over the \$62,500,000. This preliminary question passed in review before the arbitrators; and in its discussion he (Mr. Wood) contended that the whole question was discussed. The hon. gentleman said the Government were censurable because they pressed a decision after it had been intimated to them that the Quebec arbitrator would withdraw if the decision were rendered. He thought that probably, being in their confidence, Mr. Blake might have been aware of this fact, but for himself, although he attended all the meetings of the arbitration, he was not aware of this alleged fact. But if he had been aware of it, it would not have changed his course. (Hear, hear.) He always believed the award might have been made in one or two days. The Government were constantly taunted with dilatoriness; and in obtaining this preliminary decision, the Government had obtained a decision practically settling the award. Mr. Wood then went into some statistics relating to the special funds, and Municipal Loan Funds, and said that Mr. Blake had proposed in his speech in 1869, that these funds should be thrown into the debt, while Quebec retained similar funds in her possession. Mr. Wood quoted the words of the hon. member as reported in THE GLOBE.

Mr. BLAKE said that he had then stated, in reply to an interruption of the Hon. Treasurer, that this course was certainly not to be taken without reference to the condition of the account between Upper and Lower Canada.

Mr. WOOD then referred to his votes on the Independence of Parliament Act. The hon. member for South Bruce (Mr. Blake) had accused him of being in some way responsible for the dissatisfaction of Quebec be-

cause he had voted against the hon. member's amendment on the Independence of Parliament Act. The hon. gentleman did not himself take any objection to Col. Gray's presence on the arbitration, but said that Quebec might object; and consequently if Quebec's objection fell to the ground, that of the hon. member's did also. The amendment moved was that no persons holding employment of profit under the Crown in Canada, or in any of the provinces, other than the members of the Government of Canada, should not be eligible for a seat in the House. Under the amendment he would certainly have excluded himself.

Mr. BLAKE—That would have been very unfair. (Laughter.)

Mr. WOOD—And, if I mistake not, the hon. gentleman also. He had voted against the amendment and would do so again, because the amendment dealt with certain officers with whom the Dominion had nothing whatever to do. He was prepared to go as far as the hon. gentleman in excluding all persons, of whatever employment they might be, who were receiving any emoluments from the Government of the day.

Mr. BLAKE—Does not a county registrar receive any emolument from the Government of the day?

Mr. WOOD—No.

Mr. BLAKE—Then why is he excluded?

Mr. WOOD—Because he receives a registrarship, and is placed in position to receive emoluments. No doubt, the spirit and the intent of the law go so far, and he contended that unless they construed very narrowly the Independence of Parliament Act, it went far to exclude all persons who might directly or indirectly receive emoluments from the Government of the day. He admitted that a person in the position of Col. Gray was not able to give an independent vote; but he was not prepared to vote for so sweeping an amendment as that proposed by the hon. member for South Bruce. The next charge brought against him was that he had voted against the 13th reference of the Nova Scotia subsidy. He should give an affirmative vote on a question of that kind when put as a substantive motion, wherever he might be. He agreed with the hon. member that Nova Scotia had got more than she was fairly entitled to; but the great leader of the confederation party was so anxious to bring the union about that he (Mr. Wood) was quite willing to extend to Nova Scotia the same terms that had previously been given to New Brunswick, rather than that it should be necessary to coerce her into the union by means of an overawing force, which would cost far more, and besides would rankle in the breasts of the Nova Scotians for years to come. He agreed that more had been granted to Nova Scotia than was her due; but the question on the matter being brought forward in this House, whether it was advisable to array Ontario against Nova Scotia, was debatable, and on the six months' hoist being proposed, he voted for it. It had been endeavoured to make some capital out of the aid rendered to medical schools, but the Government were of opinion that subsidies to medical schools were of no advantage to the cause of education, and if the hon. member for South Bruce thought that the Government would be ousted on this question he was very much mistaken. The speaker went on to comment on the action of the hon. member for South Bruce on the Dower Bill, and said that he (Mr. Wood) was not in favour of a wife having any dower during the life of her husband. He alluded to the bill of Lady Smith as one which had been opposed by gentlemen opposite, but which had proved of great benefit to the estate.

Mr. BLAKE—Perhaps the hon. gentleman does not know that the bill in question passed with my amendments. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. WOOD went on to say that the opposite party was becoming weaker, and afterwards combatted the assertion that members on the Opposition and Government sides of the House who voted with the Administration were corrupted. He stated that charges of this nature, which appeared in THE GLOBE newspaper, and were echoed over the country, did more to demoralize the primal voters than all other causes put together. (A laugh.) He (Hon. Mr. Wood) was quite prepared to talk this matter out to the next election. He was willing to meet the hon. member for South Bruce in any riding in the country on these subjects. Still, however, he (Mr. Wood) would say that the relations between a member and his constituents were of a confidential character, and it was simply insulting for any gentleman to say that he would enter the constituency of another, and tell those constituents what he thought of their representative. The member for South

Grey was responsible to his own constituents, and he (Mr. Wood) was not there to say whether that gentleman were right or wrong, but was willing to leave the matter to that gentleman's constituents. He (Mr. Wood) could now state that he would have in cash, and invested, \$3,160,000—half a million more than he could be sure of last session. The ordinary sources of revenue were \$3,000,000, and there were \$300,000, free of expense, from the Crown Lands—a permanent source of revenue. We had a permanent revenue that would yield enough to satisfy all the expenses of the public service, and leave \$600,000 or \$1,000,000 annually to devote to public improvements. (Hear, hear, from Government benches.) The Opposition were conspirators—he meant political conspirators—doing their best against the interests of the country. (Applause from Government benches.)

Mr. CUMBERLAND deprecated the personalities that had marked the debate. For instance, the hon. member for South Bruce had been vilifying a member of the House.

Mr. BLAKE rose to a point of order. He said there had been a mis-report, and after explaining, the gentleman concerned had professed himself satisfied with the explanation. Therefore the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Cumberland) was out of order in making the statement he had made.

Mr. CUMBERLAND went on to complain that the Opposition had not a word of praise for the address, and blamed them for carrying the discussion into past matters.

Mr. RYKERT said that the Government had reason to congratulate themselves that the Opposition had found nothing to complain of in the address. He was sorry that the hon. member for South Bruce had found objection to the award of the arbitrators.

Mr. BLAKE said he was not satisfied with the award, and had said so before, and given his reasons also, namely:—that it gave less than justice to Ontario.

Mr. RYKERT went on to speak favourably of the address. As respected the railway policy of the Government, he would wait until the measures were brought down, and if these were satisfactory, he would support them. Having been engaged for fifteen years in the administration of justice in his own district, he was convinced of the necessity of a central prison policy as enunciated by the Government. Mr. Rykert deprecated the personalities which had been characteristic of the debate; and though he would not endorse the action of Mr. Smith the other night—for it was derogatory to the House—still he had been goaded into it. The hon. member for South Bruce had taken the member for Welland (Mr. Beatty) to task. Well, he (Rykert) knew that the member for Welland had been elected to support the Administration. (Hear, hear, from Opposition benches.) He (Rykert) had opposed the member for Welland, and had heard him on the hustings pledge himself to support the Government. (Laughter.) At the same time he (Rykert) told the electors he did not believe that Mr. Beatty would support the Government. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He (Rykert) as a friend of Mr. Beatty, would advise him in the future to come out for the Government and not be beating about the bush. (Hear, hear, and laughter from Government benches.) He (Rykert) maintained that the present Government was composed of a majority of Reformers. (Oh, oh.) At the same time, he would challenge any one to show a good measure passed within the last 14 or 15 years which had not, to a large extent, received the support of the Conservative party. The Conservative party had been consistent, and in good faith had supported the present Government; and he would assert that at the next election the Conservative party would triumph. He hoped he would see the hon. member for South Bruce in his (Rykert's) constituency at next election.

Mr. BLAKE—I'll be there. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RYKERT said that he had supported the Government for the past three years, and his conduct had been satisfactory to his constituents.

Mr. CALVIN said he was sorry that there had been so much discussion between Reformers and Conservatives. He regretted that the hon. member for South Bruce had taken the course he had taken on the arbitration; but at the same time he was sorry to hear from the Treasurer that Ontario had not obtained full justice. (Hear, hear.) As to the school question, he thought that the people would have petitioned for it if they wanted it. (Laughter.) He did not like the idea of one or two knowing more than the rest of the country. (Renewed laughter.)