

when he opposed it from its inception? This was the position of the matter, and the hon. gentlemen had chosen to condemn the action of the Executive, because, as hon. gentlemen thought, they were actuated by some wrong or in proper motive in reserving this Bill. As matter of Constitutional law, they were perfectly right. He believed there was no gentleman in the House who would not say

so after careful consideration of the matter. That being the case, it remained to be seen whether there was in the House sufficient party feeling to induce them to do what in their consciences they knew to be wrong. He begged to move the following amendment to the amendment:—"That all the words after 'the' be struck out, and the following substituted:—"We beg to assure your Excellency that, in advising your Excellency to specially reserve the Bills for the incorporation of the Loyal Orange Associations of Eastern and Western Ontario for an expression of the opinion of His Excellency the Governor-General, the Executive Council of this Province was justified by Constitutional usage."

Mr. ROBINSON considered the extension of the franchise would be received favourably all over the Province, and the Municipal Loan Fund scheme had, he believed, given general satisfaction to Whig and Tory. With regard to the Orange Bill, he would like to know whether it would be according to law to introduce a new Bill? If it was, he would like to see that Bill introduced before the other Bills which would be introduced. He was glad to find that they had got a convert in the member for North York, who had opposed the Bill last session. He was afraid this subject was being used for political purposes, for he had been told by Tory Orangemen that they did not care a snap for the Bill. He had closely watched the men for North York, and he had invariably heard him speak on one side of a question, and seen him vote on the other side, and he always appeared sorry that he could not vote on both sides. (Laughter.) He trusted the printing arrangement would be such as to enable them to get the Bills printed early in the session, and obviate the difficulty experienced last session.

Mr. BOULTBEE replied to Mr. Robinson in a speech bristling with strong personalities, and concluded with again attacking and condemning the action of the Government with respect to this Bill.

Mr. ROBINSON, during his attack upon him, said he would let the hon. gentleman alone, but he thought he would vote against the amendment yet.

The House then rose for recess.

After recess,

Mr. CAMERON requested that some member of the Government should speak upon the question, as up to this time they had merely had the opinion of a private member upon the subject.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT, who on rising was received with loud cheers, defended the Government from the charge of having been wanting in their duty to the country, and asserted that they had fully deserved the confidence which the country had seen fit to repose in them. If the hon. gentleman opposite had been anxious to have an opportunity of declaring their want of confidence in the Government, he certainly was amazed at the occasion they had taken to do so. (Cheers.) What question was it upon which they asked the House to allow them to take their seats on the Treasury Benches? What was it they charged against the Government? Why, it was a subject in regard to which, if blame attached to any one, it was to the party to which hon. gentlemen themselves belonged. (Cheers.) The Government had merely advised the Lieut.-Governor to reserve these Bills for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General; but the friends of the hon. gentlemen opposite were then the advisers of the Governor-General, and yet they did not advise him to say that the Bills should be allowed. (Cheers.) He contended that the reservation was perfectly in accordance with the Constitution. The question for this House to consider was whether assent here, followed by disallowance at Ottawa, would not have been a much worse thing than reservation was; and he (Mr. Mowat) said without hesitation, that it would have been. The only reason given why these Bills were not allowed was that it was unnecessary that the reservation should have been made, and he (Mr. Mowat) ventured to say that never in the history of Colonial Government was such a reason given before. If an error had been committed, the Governor-General should have been advised to give his assent to the Bills in order that it might be rectified.

It was a strange thing indeed, that hon. gentlemen opposite should make that a subject of complaint against the Government which the party to which they belonged was responsible for, and responsible for by utterly violating all constitutional usage. It was well known that there were Bills upon which, when they were before the House, parties were very much divided. So far as the Government was concerned there were four of them who thought that the Bills should not pass, and he (Mr. Mowat) was alone in thinking that they should pass. He had voted for such a Bill when he was in Parliament before, and he had seen no reason since to change the opinion he then held with regard to them—no reason why so influential and numerous a body as the Orangemen, respectable and loyal as they were, should not be incorporated. After a great deal of debating, and some changing of votes on the part of gentlemen now supporting the motion against the Government, the Bills finally passed, and then came up the question which had not before presented itself to his (Mr. Mowat's) mind whether the Bills were such as should pass at once or whether they should be sent to the Governor-General for his assent. He (Mr. Mowat) was exceedingly reluctant to enter upon the deliberation of that question, but in the position he occupied he could not refuse to give his consideration to any such matters coming before him. Not only was this duty impressed upon him by his colleagues (hear, hear, from the Opposition), but he thought himself that it was right to consider whether the Bills were such as should be reserved. The question which had to be considered was not whether these Bills were positively against Dominion policy, but it had been the constitutional usage, that where there was a question with regard to a Bill being of Dominion policy or not, it should be reserved. It was not necessary in regard to this matter or in regard to any other constitutional question, that we should find some enactment on the subject. Our Constitution was not made up in that way. A large portion of our Constitutional rules were built up by precedent. When Confederation was adopted, one of the very first resolutions was that our new Constitution should be, as far as possible, a copy of the British Constitution, and accordingly all the rules and precedents which were embodied in the latter, were practically brought into force here under the new system, and we were bound to act upon them. Hon. gentlemen opposite might entirely disregard constitutional rules to gain a point in an election, but the Government did not do this; they held to a rule, even though it be distasteful to them. It was not to be denied that such a Bill as this would have been reserved under the old Constitution. Then if we have a Constitution founded on the British Constitution, we had no alternative but to say that these Bills were such as ought to be reserved. (Hear, hear.) A reservation did not at all imply that the Government, whose duty it might be to take the responsibility of giving advice to that effect, were not in favour of the Bill. Bills might come up here which the House might be earnestly in favour of; but if they felt that they were Bills that should be reserved, they were constitutionally bound to advise that that course be taken. The only instance which had been mentioned in which such a Bill as this passed was when one passed the Legislature of Prince Edward Island. On that occasion the Bill was reserved for the consideration of the Home Government, and the despatch of the Duke of Newcastle in answer to the Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island declared that the Bill could not receive the sanction of the Imperial authorities; the Bill, consequently never became law. The Orange Society had been a very important one in this Province for scores of years, and during all that time had had representatives in the highest position in the land, yet it had never been incorporated either in Great Britain or in the Colonies. It was, therefore, an unusual thing that Bills of this kind should pass into law. Then, again, they knew that Bills of this kind were introduced into the old Parliament of Canada, and after a good deal of discussion they failed to pass there. Upper and Lower Canada constituted a large portion of this Dominion and they refused to pass such Bills. He (Mr. Mowat) thought the objections to them were not well founded, but such was the policy with regard to them in the old Canadian Parliament. He had taken the trouble to have a search made in regard to the practice of reserving Bills since the time that responsible Government was established in this country—the very system which we now have, only that the powers are