

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

16th March, 1865.

The first resolution of the Committee of Supply was then carried.

On the second resolution for \$1,000,000, for the permanent defence of the country:—

Hon. Mr. ROSE said: I feel that the duty which devolves upon the Government, with reference to this measure, is one of the most serious character. (Hear, hear.) It is one of a nature which, I hope, will not very often arise in this or any other colony. I think it behoves the House and every member who loves the country who has an interest in its future prosperity, and who has a regard for the defence of it, to strengthen the hands of the Government in every possible way. It is desirable that they should be enabled in their intercourse with the Imperial Government to feel that they represent not merely a party in this country, but the unanimous opinion of nearly three millions of British subjects. (Hear, hear.) I trust, therefore, that the resolution to which the Government are asking our assent will meet with the unanimous concurrence of the House. The Canadian delegation to England will have no enviable task. It is a serious and solemn responsibility that will devolve upon them, and for which not only this Province but I may add the whole Empire, will hold them to a strict account. I say this because I feel that the vote which the Government are asking for, must be looked upon merely as an instalment, or an earnest of what the desire and intention of this country is with reference to its own defence. It is useless for us to do anything, it is folly to undertake a part, unless we are prepared to carry out to the full extent all such measures as will enable the country to be put in an efficient state of defence. It would be useless for us to spend—as the Imperial Government appeared, by the recent debate in the House of Lords, inclined to do—the small sum of £50,000 this year and £50,000 per annum for two or three succeeding

years unless the assent of that Government is obtained to co-operate with this country in that fair and liberal expenditure for the completion of the whole scheme of works, which, if they are to be of any service, must be made within the shortest possible time; and it is because I feel we ought to strengthen the hands of our Government in its negotiations with the Home Government upon this important question, that I trust there will be no dissent from this resolution. I believe that if the Government go to England with a spirit of conciliation, and, at the same time, of firmness, knowing what this country is prepared to do, on the one hand, and what it is their right to demand, on the other, that we should receive that same measure of consideration from the Imperial Government which it has ever before extended to us. There is no reason to apprehend anything else. I feel, at the same time, that the crisis is very grave because of the difficulties in the way, for our Delegates have not only to obtain the assent of the Government of England, but they must bear their part in the work of enlightening and convincing the judgments, and enlisting the sympathies of the people of England, in order that full justice be done to us. I know the influence of that school of politicians in England who affect to despise the colonial connexion and who disregard the obligation it entails, and that my Hon. friends on the Treasury benches will have a stubborn battle to fight with that school and to overcome its influence with the Government at home. In the present juncture when the Imperial Parliament is upon the eve of a dissolution and when the government is not unnaturally desirous of strengthening its hands the work will not be an easy one. I, therefore, consider it the more incumbent upon this House and the people of this country to back up the Government and increase its weight with the Home Government in the conduct of these negotiations about to be entered upon. (Hear, hear.) There are considerations which the delegation from this country can present—and