

friend, the member for Georgetown, has been chosen as Leader by the Opposition. We were in this act, Sir, as consistent as were the Government in offering him the Speaker's chair. The fact of their having done this only proves that we have made a wise choice. I myself heard that gentleman, when addressing his constituents in Georgetown, say, if ever that crisis came, when his vote could put this Island into Confederation without the consent of the people, God forbid that he should give it. Take this fact in connection with the well-known character of the hon. member for Georgetown, and we have, I think, as good a guarantee for his conduct as can be required.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN.—I did not, Mr. Chairman, intend to speak at this stage of the proceedings; but, certainly, I did not expect that any hon. gentleman would have made such statements as the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Duncan) has done. He said that all the Opposition of last year were in favor of bringing the troops here, except two—the hon. member for New Glasgow, and the hon. member for Tryon. All the members of the minority of last year, with the exception of two, were not in favor of the action of the late Government in that matter; and, therefore, Sir, his statement is incorrect. There was a Resolution brought in by the Government, to which the hon. member for Tryon moved an amendment, and eight members voted for it—which amendment I will now read:—

“That the House of Assembly regret the disturbances and troubles which occurred in this Colony in the past year, but the House, at the same time, are of opinion that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been set aside by a further recourse to the aid of the civil power at the disposal of the local authorities, before calling in the aid of Her Majesty's troops.”

Now, Sir, I find that eight voted for this amendment, and this is an important fact. I did not intend to go into this question. I am sorry, and I think every hon. member in this House is sorry, that the Hon. Mr. Whelan has not been returned,—sorry that he was so unfortunate. There have been other matters brought up, which, I think, we had better now pass by, as we shall have ample opportunity, hereafter, to speak to them. I will only say that I was surprised at the explanation given by the hon. member, with respect to the delay in holding the Election.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—Does the hon. member refer to me?

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN.—I referred to the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Duncan).

Mr. HOWAT.—Mr. Chairman, I was the one who moved the resolution in the House last year which has just been read by the hon. member. I believe that law and order should be maintained; and I believe that all classes are liable to become excited at times; but I do think that the Government should have used the means at their disposal before they brought the troops here. Had they done so, they would have had no occasion for the troops to put down any disturbance. But now that they are here, I am glad to see them. It is admitted by all that this Session was called too late, and both sides of the House seem to try to get clear of the blame. Now, is there cause for complaint? I, for one, believe that there is blame, and I wish that blame to rest upon those on whom it should. If the present Government, as explained by the Hon. the Atty. Gen., had no more time than was required by law for calling the Legislature, then the blame must rest with the late Government. I am at a loss to understand the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) when he gave as a reason that they were waiting for fuller information on

Confederation. Now, Sir, if he was sincere last year in the *no terms resolution*, there was no necessity to wait for any further information on the subject of Confederation; and the Election should have been held at the proper time, and the country not put to the inconvenience of calling the Legislature so late.

Mr. BRECKEN.—In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, I suggested what I thought probably was the reason why the late Election did not take place at an earlier date, that the Government were waiting the result of the deliberations of the delegates of the other Provinces, in London, on the subject of Confederation. If such was their reason, it appears to me a sufficient one; for who could tell to what extent our position might have been effected by the policy of the Imperial Government? Some persons predicted that we would be coerced into union; others, that certain terms would be offered for the acceptance or rejection of the people of this Colony, and with that object a dissolution would have to take place. The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) will surely admit that it was of consequence that all doubts in this important matter should be removed before the Electors were called upon to choose their representatives. The hon. member charges me, as one of the supporters of the celebrated *no terms resolution*, with inconsistency in excusing this delay; but Sir, the hon. member knows very well that, although I voted for these resolutions, I did not agree with the wording of them; and if he refers to the report of my speech on that occasion, he will find that I stated that they went too far, that to say that no terms of union that would prove advantageous to our interests and the well-being of the people could be offered was going too far. My reasons for voting for these resolutions were, that I believed that no other terms were in store for us other than those offered by the Quebec Scheme—terms which I believed then, and still do, were neither just nor liberal to the Island; and that in a union on such terms, our material interests would be most seriously depressed. That looking at what was then taking place in the neighboring Province of Nova Scotia, the very great dissatisfaction that appeared to exist there, and the protests that were being made against the policy of the Government going into Confederation without first appealing to the people; I considered it would have been dangerous for us to admit the principle in the abstract, until there was a prospect of getting fair terms, such as the people of this Colony would be prepared to accept. If the hon. member (Mr. Davies) will take the trouble to refer to my speech, when these resolutions were under discussion last Session, he will find that I have not changed my opinions. That I then said that terms might be offered which it would be to our interest to accept. Not that I think it any discredit to a man to change his opinions, on political as well as other subjects. The man who never changes his opinion, never corrects his errors. Since last Session Confederation has undergone a material change. The union of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick has been accomplished; besides the terms of the compact have also been materially changed. With us, Sir, I think it is only a question of time. I have never thought that we can stand alone and keep out of the union. If I thought we could without imperilling our various interests, I would say in the words of Shakespeare, “better