

gentlemen resident in the country would do. There are 18 counties in the Province, and yet when I take up the list, I find that 14 or 15 of the gentlemen who compose it, actually live in the city of Halifax. Is it fair then, I ask, that the 17 counties outside of Halifax should not receive equal representation, especially in a case like this, where a grant is asked from the public Treasury? It will not do for the hon. Prov. Secy. to endeavour to throw dust in my eyes, by eulogizing in eloquent terms, the merits of the various gentlemen who are upon this Committee. I agree with him perfectly in everything that he has said upon that subject. For many of these gentlemen I entertain the highest respect; and as regards Dr. Honeyman, I am sure every one must feel that we are under the deepest obligations to him, for the ability, industry, and zeal with which he represented the interests of Nova Scotia at the last great Exhibition in London. My objection, however, as I before stated, was not to the names, but to the fact of their being nearly all drawn from one locality. It was an objection easily removed for if it was considered essential that those gentlemen should be upon the committee it was competent to add others from the rural districts, and thus secure the proper representation of the interests of the whole province. So far from being averse to the expenditure of this sum, (if the object is properly carried out) I think the amount, compared with the grant of £6000 a few years ago, when the revenue was not in as flourishing a condition as now, is too small if we wish to obtain a proper representation of the industry and resources of this province—and, therefore, I should not object to even a larger sum if the objections I have referred to were removed. I do not deny the right of any number of gentlemen in Halifax or elsewhere, to unite for this or any other object, if that object is to be carried out at their own expense. But when this self-constituted Committee, as it appears to me to be, for no one knows how it was organized, comes before the people's representatives for a grant of the people's money, the case is different. If we grant money to a mere local organization in the city, must we not do the same thing to other sections of the Province? If any number of gentlemen in the extreme West or East—in Pictou or Kings—form a society for representing the products of their sections at the proposed exhibition, if the present application be granted, how can you in justice refuse any of those. Are not their claims equal to the claims of Halifax?

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said,—No person feels the importance of proper representation more than I do, and I am inclined to regret that the sum recommended is not larger. If, therefore, any gentleman feels disposed to move that the amount be increased the Government will not stand in the way of a supplemental grant. We were told the other day when discussing another question that the Government had pursued an unwise course in seeking the assistance and advice of gentlemen from the country upon the subject of the defences of the province, and that the action of the Commander-in-Chief in summoning those gentlemen to the city for that purpose was unconstitutional and contrary to law. I will put this case upon the same footing, and ask how can gentlemen from the country act upon the committee without being present in the city.

Mr. MILLER.—If appointed they could correspond with the board here.

Hon. ATTY. GEN.—That has probably been done before now. There is no doubt that Mr. Honeyman, who knows from past experience the proper persons to apply to, has opened up correspondence with them. But suppose that the government had summoned gentlemen from the country—which they could not do without paying their expenses—what would have been the result? We would have heard the member for Guysborough charging them, as he had done in reference to the militia convention, with unauthorized expenditure of the public money.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL.—To be sure I would.

Hon. ATTY. GENL.—The government were then in the position of being blamed by the member for Guysborough for spending public monies upon this object, and by the member for Richmond for not having spent them. I think the head of the government in selecting the members of the committee had a right to assume that his choice would meet with the approval of the Legislature and the people, for he had been guided to a large extent by the names of these gentlemen who at the last Exhibition had been charged with the expenditure of £6,000, and as no complaints had been made of the manner in which they had discharged their duties, he had a right to assume that the interests of the whole province, had secured proper consideration at their hands.

Dr. HAMILTON said,—I am not sorry that I asked the question as regards the appointment of this committee, for although I do not object to the names of any of the gentlemen who form it, I think it is right that upon a subject in which the whole Province is interested that the country should know how it has been constituted. I have always been in favor of these exhibitions as a means of shewing to the world the capabilities of the province. The exhibitions that have been held have done more to advance the interests of Nova Scotia than anything I know of. If I had known this discussion was coming up, I would have been prepared with some extracts from the report of the commissioners of the last great International Exhibition, shewing the advantage that Nova Scotia had derived from having her apples and other fruit at the world's great fair. There is one gentleman whose name I would like to see upon this committee, and I am not aware whether he was offered a place there or not. I allude to Robt. G. Haliburton, Esq., a gentleman who, in connection with the last exhibition, probably did more service than anybody else, in travelling about the country, lecturing, and collecting materials for the work. I think he is entitled to be asked to take part in this committee. I repeat, again, that I have no personal objection to any member of the committee, but it would have looked just as well if more gentlemen from the country had been upon it.

Mr. S CAMPBELL said.—I think that the house and government ought to feel under deep obligation to the hon. members for the counties of Kings and Richmond, for bringing up this discussion, inasmuch as it afforded them the means of showing the country an industrial exhibition, which has been rather scarce since the commencement of the session. I hope,