

The resolution was put as follows:—

Resolution on employ-
ing reporters.

Resolved—That the sum of _____ be granted to Her Majesty, for the purpose of paying some fit and discreet person, or persons, for the purpose of faithfully, fairly and impartially reporting the debates of this House, during the present session.

Amendment.

In amendment—Mr. Gowan, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, moves that after the word “Resolved,” the whole be expunged, and the following inserted, That Messrs. Morris, Rykert, Gamble, Thomson and Boulton be a committee to employ one or more reporters, to report the proceedings of this House, and that this House will make good any reasonable sum necessary to defray the expenses which the said committee shall incur.

Carried.

Which was carried.

The original question, as amended, was then put and carried, as follows:—

Original resolution
amended.

Resolved—That Messrs. Morris, Rykert, Gamble, Thomson and Boulton be a committee to employ one or more reporters, to report the proceedings of this House, and that this House will make good any reasonable sum necessary to defray the expenses which the said committee shall incur.

Message from His
Excellency the Govern-
or General.

Mr. Secretary Murdoch brought down a message from His Excellency the Governor General.

The message was read by the Speaker as follows:—

MESSAGE

From His Excellency the Governor General, on the subject of the Union of the Provinces.

[TRANSMITTED 7TH DECEMBER, 1839.]

C. POULETT THOMSON.

Message on the subject
of the union of the
provinces.

In pursuance of the intention expressed in his Speech from the Throne, the Governor General desires now to bring under the consideration of the House of Assembly, the subject of the Re-union of this Province with Lower Canada, recommended by Her Majesty in Her Gracious Message to both Houses of Parliament on the third of May last.

For several years the condition of the Canadas has occupied a large portion of the attention of Parliament. That they should be contented and prosperous—that the ties which bind them to the Parent State should be strengthened—that their administration should be conducted in accordance with the wishes of the people, is the ardent desire of every British Statesman—and the experience of the last few years amply testifies that the Imperial Parliament has been sparing neither of the time it has devoted to the investigation of their affairs, nor of the expenditure it has sanctioned for their protection.

The events which have marked the recent history of Lower Canada, are so familiar to the House of Assembly, that it is unnecessary for the Governor General further to allude to them. There, the Constitution is suspended, but the powers of the Government are inadequate to permit of the enactment of such permanent laws as are required for the benefit of the people.

Within this Province the finances are deranged—public improvements are suspended—private enterprise is checked—the tide of emigration, so essential to the prosperity of the country and to the British connexion, has ceased to flow—while by many, the general system of Government is declared to be unsatisfactory.

After the most attentive and anxious consideration of the state of these Provinces, and of the difficulties under which they respectively labor, Her Majesty's advisers came to the conclusion, that by their re-union alone could those difficulties be removed. During the last session of the Imperial Legislature they indeed refrained from pressing immediate legislation, but their hesitation proceeded from no doubt as to the principle of the measure or its necessity. It arose solely from their desire to ascertain more fully the opinions of the Legislature of Upper Canada, and to collect information from which the details might be rendered more satisfactory to the people of both Provinces.

The time then is now arrived beyond which a settlement cannot be postponed. In Lower Canada it is indispensable to afford a safe and practicable return to a Constitutional Government, and so far as the feelings of the inhabitants can be there ascertained, the measure of the re-union meets with approbation.

In Upper Canada it is no less necessary, to enable the Province to meet her financial embarrassments, and to proceed in the development of her natural resources. There are evidently no means in this Province of fulfilling the pecuniary obligations which have been contracted, but by a great increase in the Local Revenues. But so long as Lower Canada remains under her present form of Government, neither Province possesses any power over the only source from which that increase can be drawn. Nor even, were it possible to restore a Representative Constitution to Lower Canada, unaccompanied by the Union, would the position of this Province be much improved: