

the Finance Minister's resignation, he would not pretend to hold the Finance Minister responsible for having conspired to bring about the destruction of the Commercial Bank, but what he did say was this, that that honourable gentleman was unquestionably responsible for the passage of the Act which rendered it not only possible but probable that such an event might happen, giving one banking institution an interest at variance with the interests of other banking institutions and the power more or less to effect their rule, this had inevitably led to the view that there was no longer that security which we formerly had in the fact of all being to a considerable extent involved in the fate of each, so that there would necessarily be concerted action, and forbearance, and assistance on the part of all the other institutions towards the one which happened to be temporarily embarrassed. The late minister of finance was directly responsible for the passage of the Act which changed that state of things, but not he alone. It was one of the fruits of the late Coalition, but for that Coalition the Government would not have felt itself so strong as to venture to force through the Act without allowing that time for debate which would have allowed the feeling of the country to have been elicited. The Government hoped that by giving up the minister of finance as an expiatory sacrifice they would propitiate the country, but every man of them was as responsible for it as the minister of finance himself.

Hon. Mr. Cartier, Hear, hear.

Mr. Blake said the Minister of Militia was not afraid of the responsibility, as the feeling was not so strong in that portion of the Dominion from which he came; but when members of the Government, representing Ontario, did not contradict, but acquiesce in the statement of the Minister of Finance, that he had lost confidence of the people of that portion of the Dominion because of late events it necessarily followed that the people of Ontario had lost confidence in more than him—they had lost all confidence in the Ministers who are responsible for that measure. Mr. Blake went on to show the injurious nature of the bank of issue scheme of last session, and the inexpediency of such legislation when it would necessarily be one of the first duties of the Confederated Parliament to have a uniform currency system for the whole Dominion. He hoped that very

[Mr. Blake (Durham West)]

soon the Act of last session would be set aside, and the best scheme for the whole Dominion be introduced and acted upon without delay. He proceeded to point out that the Government had a good opportunity of showing the people that they were not to continue a system of prodigality and extravagance, by reducing the number of Cabinet officers from 13 to 11. He then referred to the promise of a measure as to elections. He trusted it would contain a provision that the elections should be held on one day, and the same day throughout the Dominion. Under the present system the greatest facilities were given for corrupting the constituencies. Unfortunately, election corruption was increasing at every election and it appeared as if the time would soon come when it would be almost impossible to obtain a seat in this House without spending large sums of money in debauching the electors. The militia scheme, he hoped, would be well considered. The House should not vote large sums of money, for a system of defence without seeing where to it tended and where to it would grow. An exhaustive investigation of the whole subject should precede legislation, so that we might adopt as complete a system of defence as the circumstances of the country would admit. He then referred to the position of Nova Scotia. He did not think that the Imperial Government would consent to release Nova Scotia from the Union—at all events until they had given it a fair trial, and he hoped his friends from that section would make the best of the situation and join in working the constitution faithfully. So long as it existed for the good of the whole Dominion, he hoped nothing would occur which would lead us to seek a change in our constitution. There could be no greater evil in a country than having an unstable, unsettled system of government. Stability was to be hoped for and prayed for. And, though he had been accused at the election of being disloyal, of being a disunion candidate, because of the ground he then assumed, he believed there was on the floor of the House no truer, though no more humble, friend of the constitution than himself. (Cheers).

Mr. Cartwright said he had listened with satisfaction to his honourable friend, whom they would always find, so long as he continued a member of the House, a worthy friend or worthy foe. This Union, in its present state, can only be spoken of as an experiment, and much the largest part of the work remains yet to be done. We in Ontario and Quebec have been much better acquaint-