

member for Georgetown, a red hot Unionist, as their leader, thus showing their leanings to the Confederation Scheme? With regard to what my hon. colleague (Mr. Duncan) has said of my connection with the Tenant League, I may tell him that I am not now in this House through the influence of that body, though many of its members voted for me. It is true that I at first supported the Tenants in their demands, but I had afterwards cause to disapprove of many of their acts. The hon. member's rambling allusions to my canvass and election in Belfast have not very much weight. He clearly expected to carry all Belfast before him, but failed in the attempt.

Mr. BRECKEN.—In the explanation which I gave of the probable cause of the delay in issuing the Writs for the General Election, I merely stated that, in my opinion, that delay was occasioned by a desire on the part of the late Government to postpone the Elections until something more definite was known on the subject of Confederation; but I did not wish to convey the impression that they were waiting in order to sell their country. Even if disposed to take such action on Confederation, they would first have had to submit it to the Legislature; and I therefore do not see that they were in a position to act as traitors, even were they so inclined. Much, Mr. Chairman, has been said about the Opposition's having chosen the hon. member for Georgetown, (Mr. Haviland) who is a Confederate, as their leader, but I cannot think it consistent in the hon. member for Belfast to condemn them for doing so when the party of which he is a member offered the highest honor in this House which they could confer upon the same Confederate gentleman, namely, the Speaker's Chair. And has not the Government of which he is a member appointed a gentleman who is a strong Confederate to the most lucrative office in their gift? That gentleman has since lost his Election, and I am sorry that such is the case. The Queen's Printer has always been a credit to the House, and I would not have the slightest objection to seeing him now on the floor, for I have always respected him, strongly though he has denounced the policy of the Conservative party. I consider that the Liberal party—if such a party exists—acted rightly in appointing Mr. Whelan; I merely object to the inconsistency of hon. members who made that appointment, now finding fault with the Opposition for selecting their ablest and most experienced member as Leader, even though he be a Confederate.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—The hon. member who has just spoken considers that I cannot, with any degree of consistency, approve of Mr. Whelan's appointment as Queen's Printer, and yet condemn the Opposition for choosing the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. Haviland) as their Leader. It is well-known that Mr. Whelan had strong claims upon the Liberal party. He ran his election, was returned, and then applied for the Printership; but, before that office was given him, he renounced his former opinions in favor of Confederation, and promised to oppose the measure in the House, if again elected. It appears, however, that, on his returning to his constituents, they were not satisfied with his promise, and rejected him; and, I am proud, as a politician, they did so, though I myself believe that, had Mr. Whelan been again returned, he would have opposed Confederation. But the case is different in regard to Mr. Haviland. The Opposition have chosen him unpledged, and he will still support Confederation.

Mr. BRECKEN.—I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Whelan is not present. I have always had too high an opinion of that gentleman to think that he would sell himself and his opinions for an office, and, if he were now in the House, he would not, I think,

thank the hon. member who has just sat down, for the character which he has given him, that of a political hireling. I have never seen his abandonment of his opinions, and I do not think such was ever made. The hon. member thinks there is a vast difference between the appointment of Mr. Whelan and that of Mr. Haviland. If he objects to the Opposition being led by the latter gentleman, why was he so anxious to place him in the Speaker's Chair? If he is bent upon betraying the interests of his native country, was that the reward to give him,—make him first Commoner of the land? I believe Mr. Whelan is as much a Confederate as ever, and he was placed in office by the present composite Government, for that is its character. There are in it fragments of the old Liberal party, some of the Tenant League element I believe, and some Conservatives. The position of the present hon. Leader of the Opposition is before the country. He is, we know, a staunch Confederate; and, since his avowal of his opinions on this matter, he has been returned by his constituents. Regarding the delay in the Elections, Mr. Chairman, as I said before, I do not think that the Conservative party delayed them, in order to sell the people, or that they had the power or inclination to do so. Surely the House of Assembly that passed the "No terms Resolution" would not be willing to sell the country. There was, I think, as much integrity in the late House, as in the present one; and I consider it right that the Elections were delayed, in order that the people might be better informed upon the subject of Confederation, and the wishes of the Imperial Government.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I did not, Mr. Chairman, think that the Tenant League and Confederation would be brought up for discussion, when I moved the clause now under consideration. Nothing of the sort was mentioned in the clause; and, in moving it, I merely stated that no blame was cast upon the late Government, as they were probably able to give good reasons for their acts. It was reported that the late Government desired to sacrifice the Island on the altar of Confederation, and therefore delayed the dissolution of the Assembly; but, as a proof that this could not be the case, I alluded to the fact that the hon. members opposite, for Belfast and Murray Harbor, both strong anti-Confederates, were in the Executive up to and after the time at which the dissolution would ordinarily have taken place. But, if the dissolution was delayed to enable the people to obtain more information on Confederation, that they might thereby form a more correct opinion on the subject, I am willing to concede the wisdom of the delay. Regarding the case of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and that of the present Queen's Printer, I consider that, if any person thinks proper to cover his views on a subject, and to say that he will not press them upon the attention of the House, I am perfectly at liberty to accept him as an officer, either of the Government or of this House. I look upon the hon. member for Georgetown as pledged not to support Confederation, until he shall again appeal to his constituents on the subject. It was not at all unparliamentary for the Government to offer him the Speaker's chair. In the British Parliament, the Speaker is chosen simply with regard to his merits, leaving his political opinions out of the question; and why could not we do the same? The hon. member for Charlottetown also stated that he believed that the dissolution of the late House was probably delayed, in order to afford time to receive despatches from the Home Government on the subject of Confederation. It was probably of advantage to the people, that, at the time the Elections took place, the question, in all its bearings, and all its fulness, should be before them, giving them an opportunity of forming their own opinions on the matter, and taking these opinions as a guide for their actions; and I consider that no