

of the United Kingdom, under which this house is constituted and assembled, "that the place or places within any part of the Province of Canada for holding each and every session of the Legislative Council and Assembly, should be fixed under the authority of the crown."

This was opposed by Sir Allan McNab, who moved an amendment, and, after a lengthy discussion on the prerogative of the crown, and whether it was the prerogative of the crown to fix the location of the seat of government, the original motion was carried.

Dr. Christie then moved:

"That it is the opinion of this committee, that the building in which the Legislative Assembly is now held, and which was, indeed, many years ago, erected for a different purpose, does not afford sufficient accommodation to enable members to discharge their duty to their constituents with due enquiry and sufficient deliberation, and that the locality of Kingston is not central to the majority of the population, and is badly provided with accommodation for the residence of members, particularly during the winter, which is the season they can attend to their Legislative duties with the smallest sacrifice of the general interests."

Sir Allan McNab moved an amendment, "that it is the opinion of this committee, that the building in which the Legislative Assembly is now held, does not afford sufficient accommodation to enable members to discharge their duty to their constituents with due enquiry and sufficient deliberation, and that means be taken during the recess of Parliament to remedy this inconvenience."

Mr. Cartwright said there was one objection to the motion of the hon. member for Gaspe, and that was, that the statements were not true, (hear, hear.) The building, he would admit, was not convenient, but that Kingston was not central he must deny, and also that it did not possess sufficient accommodation.—As to the centrality, it must be found on reference to the map that Kingston was about equi-distant from Quebec and Amherstburgh consequently there could be little dispute on that point; with reference to the building he had been informed by the hon. President of the Board of Works himself that the building in which they were now assembled could be altered suitably to the purposes of legislation for a much less sum than it would require to remove the public records, and offices;—and hon. gentleman, when speaking of accommodation should recollect the extraordinary circumstances in which the seat of government had been fixed here—without any intimation whatever of the intended change, the population of the town had suddenly increased 50 per cent., and it was impossible that all this could be at once provided for, and that there should exist no temporary inconvenience; but he would say that no town of the size of Kingston could have provided for the population cast upon it in the short space of eighteen months, in the manner that had been done here. But he hoped, that hon. gentlemen would treat the question fairly, they had not been sent to the house to legislate for their personal benefit, but for the general interests, and in reference to general interests should the question alone be viewed. He would allude to objections more serious than those urged in the resolution before the house. It had been said that Kingston was too near the frontier, and incapable of defence—it was deemed by some hon. gentlemen safer to go to Toronto, but it was his opinion that if they decided against Kingston, and although a majority might be found to vote against Kingston, still they could not find a majority in that house to decide upon any other given place, and he thought if hon. gentlemen were determined to vote against Kingston, they should decide upon some other situation. In the midst of these conflicting interests the Home Government says to you, we have selected Kingston only after mature deliberation, and consider that city the best for the seat of Government, it is our intention to erect extensive fortifications, for which purpose we have already purchased a large amount of property; it is our intention to make Kingston in Western Canada, what Quebec is in Eastern Canada,—it is the most desirable at present in Western Canada as being nearest to Eastern Canada members; and therefore if you dissent from our choice, it is necessary that you should show the reason why,—establish

the clearest necessity for a removal, and point out a place more suited to legislative purposes, and in favour of which the general sense of the province may be unequivocally expressed. On that he was satisfied they would not agree. But there was something else which he thought it right to consider. Before the union, in the Legislature of Upper Canada, the motion which he had the honour to put that it might be a condition of their assent to the Union that the seat of Government should remain in Upper Canada, was almost unanimously adopted. This was withdrawn afterwards as a stipulation, but though not insisted on as a condition, it was strongly urged in an address to Her Majesty on the subject. He had been opposed to the Union, he plainly foresaw that dissatisfaction must eventually be created among the people of Upper Canada, and he would assure hon. gentlemen that if they persisted in the course which he imagined them to be pursuing to transfer the seat of Government to Lower Canada the question of the repeal of the union would be seriously agitated, and he questioned much if it would not effect a repeal within three years—(several French Canadian members—SO MUCH THE BETTER!) Well, if hon. gentlemen wanted it so, let them not repeal it by a side wind—let them put a resolution on the table, and come to a direct vote upon the question at once, if it is avowed, really the intention of hon. gentlemen from Lower Canada to repeal that Union, but don't do it in this way—do not hesitate to say that this is a question of repeal of the union, that the house might understand precisely the position in which they stood. He hoped those hon. gentlemen who were opposed to Kingston, would fix upon some other place, and assign their reasons for so doing, and let their reasons be in accordance with the requirements of the despatch, pertinent to the matter at issue, the sense of the house might be tested fairly upon the question.

Mr. Durand complained that Kingston was supplied with American beef, and that all the public money went into the hands of Americans for the necessities of life. Had the seat of Government been placed either at Cobourg or Toronto, the back country of those places would be able to supply half a dozen such governments. As to the expense of buildings, that would be the same in Montreal as here, and as there were already suitable buildings at Toronto, he would vote in favour of Toronto, and Kingston.

Mr. Cock complimented Mr. Durand upon the loyalty which induced him to have such an abhorrence for republican beef, but he would tell the hon. gentleman that he would eat as much American beef at Toronto as he would at Kingston, (hear,) and it would be so as long as the American was allowed to come in and forestall the Canadian farmer in his own market. Place on a duty, and he would venture to say they would soon be supplied with Canadian beef. With respect to the locality of the seat of Government, when the question of maintaining the seat of Government in Upper Canada was before the Legislature of that Province, he had voted against it on the sole ground that such a resolution was an interference with the prerogatives of the Crown, and he would give the same vote now against the resolution submitted to the house.

Mr. Harrison said that the expense attending the fixing of the seat of Government there could be no objection, because for a very trifling sum they could be provided with every necessary convenience. There were plans and estimates now in existence for remedying the evil, and the cost would amount to only £3000, certainly a small sum considering the extent of the interests involved. It was proposed to add two wings to the present building, containing the legislative halls; to convert the present place of meeting into an ante-room, and the remainder of the present building into the departments of the house, a sufficient number of committee-rooms to be provided in the wings to be added. The plan was exceedingly simple—the expense small—and most ample accommodation would thus be acquired, so that on that score there could not be the least objection. But there had been a great deal said against Kingston, and hon. gentlemen seemed to forget that a large number of strangers were ushered into the town without the least note of warning, and that consequent-

ly the inhabitants were unable to provide suitably for the accommodation of so large a number under such extraordinary circumstances. It was no matter of surprise, therefore, that there should be some and very great inconvenience felt—but he was sure the candor of hon. gentlemen would lead them to admit that on their return to assume a second time their legislative duties here, there was not the inconvenience felt of which they had before to complain. But it was desirable, in a matter of so much importance, hon. gentlemen would divest themselves as much as possible of individual interest, he would admit that he had interests here, and all had more or less local interests to serve, but it was desirable they should throw off all ideas of personal convenience which tend to bias their minds, and come fairly to the general question at issue—view it on the broad basis of affecting the interest and convenience of the whole province, and not of any particular section. It had been said that Kingston was too near the frontier: that has been remedied by the erection of extensive fortifications, there could therefore be no necessity for removal on that ground. He conceived the only way to bring the question to an issue was to name some fit and proper place in the estimation of members, and come to an issue on it. Last year, there were two places named against Kingston, now there are three or four, and all those interested in favor either one of these rival places, was, as a matter of course, against Kingston, and therefore with respect to Kingston, it was impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion. Quebec would undoubtedly be the proper place for the seat of government in the event of a Federal union of the whole Province—a union which might take place at no distant day—but while the present union existed Quebec was out of the question. The next place which possessed public buildings was Toronto, but it must be borne in mind that these buildings are not well calculated for the purpose, as they are not as permanent in their construction as they ought to be, and that it would cost a large sum to render them so. There was no public building here, but the one in which they were assembled, it had been built for a different purpose certainly, but as he had said before, a trifling outlay upon it would extend every requisite accommodation to the Legislature; and there was also land belonging to the government here well situated and extensive enough to contain all the public buildings which might be required, so that in that respect, Kingston was equally, if not better, provided than any other place save Quebec. Some hon. gentlemen had stated that Kingston market was almost altogether supplied from the American side; this he distinctly denied; the produce of the Bay of Quinte, one of the richest districts in the Province found its market here, and he would further say that some of the most fertile soil in the Province lay within a few miles of Kingston—much of it yet remained to be opened, but that would be remedied by the introduction of Emigrants and the advantage which the market afforded. A mistaken idea had gone abroad on this subject. The increase of population in this country would be westward, and it was certainly desirable that the seat of government should be as far westward as possible, as emigrants were those who had the most business to transact with the government, this was effected with the least inconvenience at Kingston, on the one hand to the Lower Canadians and on the other to those he had mentioned. Another view was that the produce of the country is westward, and passes from thence eastward to Montreal, the great commercial emporium; nearly the whole agricultural produce went down, and as the settlement of the country proceeded westward, the seat of government should be as far westward as would be convenient to the general interests.

The resolution expresses that Kingston is not a fit place; if so, some other place should be decided upon, let us know distinctly what that is, that the House may decide rectly upon the question at issue. He had made these remarks as bearing on the subject, and would probably have occasion again to address the committee.

Dr. Dunlop said the only real objection stated in the resolution was not a matter of opinion, it was one purely of measurement. If any honorable member would take the map and measure the distance he would

find that taking Quebec at the one point, and Amherstburgh as the other, Kingston was precisely equi-distant. He did not think it fair to take in the distance below Quebec represented by his two unfortunate friends from Gaspe.

Capt. Steele said, if he consulted the immediate interests of his constituents, he would unquestionably vote for Toronto, but as he thought it his duty on this occasion to attend only to general interests, he would vote in favor of Kingston, and against the resolution. Amongst the conflicting interests which were represented in that house, who was more fit to act as an arbiter in their differences than their Sovereign, and the decision had been in favor of Kingston. He had every reason to be educated, and thought the complaints which had been made against Kingston in every respect unfounded.

Mr. Cameron said that a great deal of warm feeling had been excited in the conflict of local interests, and he was happy to say that he could enter into the question without any participation in those feelings; he did not own any property in either of the places which had been named. In his opinion the question should be looked upon geographically, and not as to centrality, in the present state of the population. The reasons urged in the resolution were well enough to use in a street conversation, but he really did not expect to see such statements made in a resolution submitted for the adoption of a legislative body. The circumstances of the removal were sufficient reason to account for the inconvenience stated. But if the seat of government is to be removed, where shall it be fixed? If Kingston does not possess advantages to give satisfaction, where are you to obtain them? As regards length, the city of Quebec was undoubtedly the strongest on this continent, and would afford ample security: the government owns property there, and there are already suitable buildings for the public services. But there was an insuperable objection to Quebec—it is placed almost at the extreme east of the Province, and therefore it would be unjust to send western members so distant; added to that was the extreme length of the waters. If you select Montreal, it is a place which possesses many advantages in the beauty of its natural scenery, and is a great commercial city, and if hon. members complain of the dirtiness of life in Kingston, and of the liberality of its inhabitants certainly no such complaint could be urged against Montreal, but that would be attended with an enormous outlay. Where is there in that city any public property, where its defence? Was the British Government to be called upon to erect new fortifications after the expense which has been incurred here, and which is intended to be incurred here? Again, it is not always the policy of a country to have its capital in a commercial city; that principle had been acted upon in the U. States, and instead of selecting the great commercial metropolis as the capital of the U. States, a small and quiet town was selected. Placing the seat of government in large commercial cities, it was found induced a mode of living &c. detrimental to the public interests. This argument, by the way, would apply to Bytown, which his hon. friend from Carlton at all times advocated as the seat of government. Looking at Kingston geographically, it was the same distance from Lake Huron as from Quebec—he would leave out Gaspe—and in a very few years it would be the centre of the population of the country.

Then Kingston was next to Quebec in the strength of its fortifications; besides it possessed immediately under the guns of Fort Henry a naval depot, in which during the last war an armament was fitted out that effectually prevented any American fleet from attempting to show their noses here, in the early part of the war, every morning he had seen a fleet of American vessels hovering off the port, not venturing an attack upon the place itself, not detracting of almost an artificial fortification; but from the time that the St. Lawrence, a ship of 120 guns, was hauled in Navy Bay, no enemy appeared in sight, to enemy could enter the harbour. Point Henry alone rendered Kingston as secure as Montreal could, by any possibility be made, there and here was the entrance to the Rideau Canal, the grand military connecting link between the lakes and the ocean, also immediately under the guns of Fort Henry. He hoped they