

the Premier to slight the prerogatives of the Crown, and that there was only, on his part, an error committed in good faith in the interpretation that he gave to words used by the Lieutenant-Governor in the interview which they had on the 19th of February instant, words which did not imply the authorization attributed to them by the Premier. With this interpretation, and the instructions in consequence given by the Premier to the Hon. Messrs Angers and Church, these gentlemen did not willingly do anything against the duties of their office. As to the blank which the Lieutenant-Governor addressed to him from Rivière Ouelle, the Lieutenant-Governor knew that such blank was to be used for the purpose of submitting the estimates to the House. This act was a token of confidence on his part, as stated by the Premier in his letter of the 27th, but it was confidential. The Lieutenant-Governor deems it his duty to observe that in his memorandum of the 25th of February instant, he in no way expressed the opinion that he thought that the Premier ever had the intention of arrogating to himself the "right of" having measures passed without his approval, or of slighting the prerogatives of the representative of the Crown. But the Premier must not lose sight of the fact that, although he had not so intended, it still exists, as was told him by the Lieutenant-Governor. The fact of having submitted several new and important measures to the Legislature without having previously, in any manner, consulted with the Lieutenant-Governor, although without any intention of slighting his prerogatives, gives rise to one of those false positions which places the representative of the Crown in a difficult and critical position with reference to both Houses of the Legislature. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot admit the responsibility of this state of things to rest upon him. So far as concerns the bill intitled 'An Act respecting the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa & Occidental Railway,' the Premier cannot apply to this measure the pretended general authorization mentioned by him in his letter, for their interview took place on the 19th of February, and the bill had then been before the House for several days, without the Lieutenant-Governor having been in any manner informed of it by his advisers. The Lieutenant-Governor then told the Premier how much he regretted such legislation; he represented to him that he considered it to be contrary to the principles of law and of justice. Notwithstanding this, the measure was pushed on until it was adopted by both Houses. It is true that the Premier gives in his letter as one of his reasons for so acting, that this permission of making use of the name of the representative of the Crown had been, moreover, always allowed to him by the predecessor of the present Lieutenant-Governor, the lamented Mr. Caron. This reason cannot avail with the Lieutenant-Governor, for by so doing, he would abdicate his position as representative of the Crown, a proceeding which neither the Lieut.-Governor nor the Premier could reconcile with the duties of the Lieut.-Governor towards the Crown. The Lieut.-Governor regrets to be compelled to state, as he told the Premier, that he has not been generally informed explicitly of the measures adopted by the Cabinet, although the Lieut.-Governor often gave occasion therefore to the Premier, especially during the course of last year. The Lieutenant-Governor, from time to time, since the last session of the Legislature, drew the attention of the Premier to several matters respecting the interests of the Province of Quebec, amongst others,—1st, to the enormous expenditure occasioned by very large subsidies to several railways, when the Province was burdened with the construction of the trunk line of railway from Quebec to Ottawa, which should prevail over all others, and this at a time when our finances compelled us to raise loans disproportionate to our revenue; 2nd, on the necessity of reducing the expenses of the civil government and that for legislation, in place of having recourse to new taxes, with a view of avoiding financial embarrassments. The Lieutenant-Governor, although with regret, also expressed the opinion to the Premier that the orders-in-council for the increase of the salaries

of Civil Service employees seemed to him to be inopportune at a time when the Government had effected with the bank of Montreal a loan for half a million, on condition of carrying this loan to one million, at the rate of 7 per cent., and in fact, to-day even (1st March), the Lieut.-Governor was obliged to allow an order-in-council to be passed to secure the last half million, for the Government would be unable to meet its obligations, as was told me by the hon. the Treasurer, by order from the Premier. The Premier did not then, nor since, inform the Lieut.-Governor that the Government were in such an impecunious position as would require special legislation to increase the public burden. The Lieutenant-Governor therefore stated and repeated these things to the Premier, and now deems it his duty to record them here, in order that they may serve as a memorandum for himself and the Premier. It results, therefore, 1st, that although the Lieutenant-Governor has made several representations, in his quality of representative of the Crown, to the Premier, on these various subjects of public interest, his advisers have taken administrative and legislative steps contrary to such representations, and without having previously advised him; 2nd, that the Lieutenant-Governor has, without evil motives, but in fact been placed in a false position, by being exposed to a conflict with the desires of the Legislature, which he acknowledges to be paramount when these desires are expressed in a constitutional manner. The Lieutenant-Governor has attentively read and examined the memorandum and documents which the Premier was kind enough to bring him yesterday. In this record are petitions from several municipal corporations, and from citizens of different localities, addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor against the resolutions and the Government bill respecting the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway. The Lieutenant-Governor was only yesterday in a position to take communication of some of these petitions, because they had not been transmitted to him before the record. The Lieutenant-Governor, after mature deliberation, cannot accept the advice of the Premier in reference to the sanction to be given the Railway bill intitled "An Act relating to the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa & Occidental Railway." For all these reasons, therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot conclude this memorandum without expressing to the Premier the regret which he feels in being no longer able to retain him in his position contrary to the rights and prerogatives of the Crown.

(Signed,) "L. LÉVELLIER,

"L.-G."

On the afternoon of the 2nd Mr. DeBoucherville called at Spencer Wood, and had a conversation, the effect of which was that he told the Lieutenant-Governor that "he understood that he was dismissed from the office of Premier," and was informed in reply that "he was to take his own interpretation from the letter." He subsequently asked for permission to make the usual explanations, which was granted, and he was then consulted "as to the persons whom he should send for," but declined giving advice, on the ground that, having been dismissed while supported by a majority, he was in a different position from a minister who had been beaten. It is unnecessary to copy more of Mr. DeBoucherville's letter than the reiteration of "his profound respect for the rights and prerogatives of the Crown, and my devotion to the interests of our Province." In justice to the ex-ministers we copy Mr.

Angers' memorandum in reply to the Lieutenant-Governor:

The resolutions respecting the North Shore Railway were submitted to the House only on the 29th of January, after the telegram had been received from the Lieut.-Governor, that a form, signed in blank, had been mailed to M. DeBoucherville in reply to his despatch of the previous day, saying, "Can you send me authorization resolutions respecting finances?" On the 30th of January, the first resolution was reported from the committee of the whole; and on the 31st it was adopted by the House; on the 1st of February the House again went into committee of the whole, and reported the other resolutions on the same subject. But it was only on the 5th that the adoption of the report of the committee was carried, the House throwing out the motion of non-confidence on this point by 33 to 21. On the 5th of February, a bill based on these resolutions was introduced. The second reading was delayed until the 18th of February; the third reading took place on the 19th. During all this time, the Lieutenant-Governor, to whom the Votes and Proceedings were sent every day, remained silent. On the 19th of February, Mr. DeBoucherville met the Lieutenant-Governor, and in the conversation which they had on the subject of this measure, thought he had satisfied him on its legality and the urgency of its being passed. The Lieutenant-Governor was so far from being explicit as to his intentions that M. DeBoucherville left him with the impression that he was authorized. The Lieutenant-Governor does not contend, in his memorandum of the 1st of March, 1878, that he had given orders to suspend this legislation, sent up to the Legislative Council. This bill had gone through its third reading before the first letter was received from the Lieutenant-Governor, dated the 25th of February, but only delivered at 4.30 p.m. on the 26th. In fact, the Lieutenant-Governor, in his letter of the 1st of March, admits that he did not in any way, in his memorandum of the 25th of February, express the opinion that he considered the Premier had intended to arrogate to himself the right of getting measures passed without his approval, or of slighting the prerogatives of the representative of the Crown. Having ascertained that a misunderstanding existed as to the interpretation of the authorization asked by telegraphic despatch on the 23rd of January, and amended on the 29th by a message stating that a form signed in blank had been sent, and, in view of the impression left by the conversation of the 19th of February in Mr. DeBoucherville's mind, should the Lieut.-Governor have waited to make known, for the first time, the existence of this misunderstanding until the 26th of February, at which date the whole of the legislation of which he complains had been discussed and voted in the affirmative by both Houses? The confidence shown by the Lieut.-Governor on the 29th of January in Mr. DeBoucherville, by forwarding the form signed in blank, was calculated to justify him in interpreting the silence of the Lieut.-Governor, at least as not meaning a dissent. After their interview of the 19th of February, the silence observed until the 26th of February was also of a nature to lead him to believe that he had a general authorisation to submit to the House all measures which the public service required. On the 31st of January, twenty-six days previous to the first memorandum of the Lieutenant-Governor, the hon. Treasurer made his budget speech, in which he announced the new taxes which it would be necessary to levy to meet the obligations of the Province—obligations contracted several years past, and resulting from the policy then inaugurated on railways, and which had received the concurrence of several members belonging to the party opposing the Government. Can this speech, published *extenso* by the press of the whole country, have escaped the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor. On the 19th of February the resolutions demanding more taxes, but at a lower rate than the one mentioned by the Treasurer in his Speech, were presented, and the 20th were adopted by a vote of 39 against 22. The Lieutenant-Governor, in