

employed the sum voted at last Session for those improvements. It may be impossible to improve that wharf; but in such a case the electors are interested in knowing why the Government have not done the work and satisfied the legitimate expectations of the people of that place.

Motion agreed to.

SUCCESSOR TO HIS EXCELLENCY.

MR. HESSON, in moving for copies of any correspondence that may have passed between His Excellency and the Home Government, in reference to the selection of a successor to His Excellency in the high position of Governor General which he now so worthily fills to the entire satisfaction and admiration of the people of Canada, said: It is not my good fortune to know personally the distinguished statesman who preceded His Excellency in the office of Governor General—I refer to Lord Dufferin; but I believe the hon. members of this House and the country will join with me in saying that Lord Lorne has discharged the high duties which devolved upon him, in administering the affairs of this country, to the satisfaction and admiration of all Canadians. Parting, therefore, as we probably soon will be called upon to part from His Excellency and His Royal Bride the Princess Louise—whose absence from Canada we so much deplore, especially by reason of the circumstance that that absence is caused by ill-health—we may be pardoned if we express some little anxiety as to who the next Governor General of Canada will be. Hon. gentlemen will have seen no doubt that a section of the press of Canada has pointed to a distinguished gentleman in this House as the probable successor to His Excellency. The hon. gentleman to whom I refer, as no doubt every hon. member knows, is the right hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. But whilst it would give much pride and satisfaction to the members of this House, as well as to the Canadian people, to know that Her Majesty would again mark with Her Royal and distinguished favor this excellent gentleman, still it is too great a sacrifice for the Conservative party which he so ably leads—too great a sacrifice for the country which he has so ably and faithfully served for so long a period, to part with him from active political life at present. I hope, therefore, that these rumors are not true; I hope that there is really no such expectation, even on the part of our worthy friends on the other side of the House, who, I believe, would willingly relegate him to that or any other position that would get rid of him as leader of the great Conservative party. The Conservative party knows his services too well—they value them too highly—to feel very much gratified at even so distinguished a mark of Royal favor as would be conferred upon Canada by elevating him to such a high position. It is somewhat doubtful, Sir, whether the newspapers to which I refer—and I refer, of course, to that portion of the press of Canada which is under the control of hon. gentlemen opposite—would be willing to take back all they have said in the past of the hon. leader of the Government, as to his being untrue to the interests of Ontario, untrue to the interests of Canada, and accept him as our future Governor General without making some very wry faces, if I may be allowed to use the expression. I think that if they are willing to get rid of that hon. gentleman now it would be in the hope that he would not have a successor to lead the Conservative party so admirably as the hon. gentleman has led it. I move for the papers out of no idle curiosity, because it is a matter of great moment to the people of Canada to know who will be their next Governor General. I trust the papers will not be so voluminous as to entail any great expense or delay in preparation, and I trust they will be laid before us at an early day.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is no correspondence at the disposal of the Government on this subject, which can be brought down. If there be any correspon-

dence between His Excellency and the Imperial Government it will be with him as an Imperial officer, and with that correspondence we have no concern and over it we have no control. I have no doubt that the country and this Parliament will accept any successor that Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to send, when we are unfortunate enough to lose the presence among us of the illustrious nobleman who now represents the Queen in Canada. As to what my hon. friend has said about myself—well, I have no aspirations, and even if I had any aspirations, there is not the most remote chance of their being satisfied or fulfilled. I am condemned to the grateful and onerous duty of leading the Conservative party; and, I think, as long as I am in public life, I shall most likely hold that position, whether on this side of the House or on the other is as the people may determine. I think I have pledged myself to the House to move the readjustment, in 1892, of the constituencies in Ontario, and as my hon. friends opposite are very anxious always that I shall carry out my pledges, I shall carry out that pledge; and if I bring down a gerrymandering measure in 1892, of course that would prevent me being an aspirant for the position of Governor General of Canada. Speaking seriously, however, that subject has been discussed in the press, and my name has appeared in the newspapers—I believe, in the first place, instigated by the correspondent of one of the New York papers—and the press of Canada have taken up the discussion, during the summer season, when there was little else to discuss. That subject was fully aired before the time of Confederation; and one of the great advantages we have in Canada, is the advantage we get from the Mother Country, that as the Queen in England stands far above party, holds the balance between parties, and carries out the constitutional principle of choosing her advisers from the people through their representatives, so we have that same advantage in Canada of having a representative of the Sovereign here, standing above and aloof from all parties and holding the balance between them. I think it would be the greatest misfortune—as I expressed it in 1865, 1866 and 1867—should any alteration in that system take place. I should look upon it as proof, and no uncertain proof, that England was not very anxious to continue the connection between Canada and the Mother Country were she to give up the selection of the representative of the Sovereign to come here as our Governor General, who would be quite aloof from all parties and who would belong to neither party. It is in this respect that I think we have a great advantage over the constitution of the United States. The President is elected every four years, and he is the subject of some very energetic writing against him during the time he is a candidate. When he is elected, he is the head of a party, instead of being the head of a nation; and every act of his Government is always liable to censure, and he is, as a matter of course, censured by the Opposition of the day—by those who have not been successful in carrying their candidate. I say it would be a very great misfortune, in my opinion, should the present system be altered. I am glad to believe that there is not the slightest chance of any such change taking place; I am glad to believe that the sense of the importance of the connection between the Mother Country and the colonies is increasing every day and every year in England; and that with our growing importance, our growing wealth, our growing position in the world as an auxiliary nation, the desire to retain Canada as one of the brightest jewels in Her Majesty's Crown, will go on increasing as it has done in the last few years. I am exceedingly obliged to my hon. friend for his kindly remarks respecting myself; but, after this explanation, I hope my hon. friend will withdraw the motion, as there are really no papers or correspondence on the subject.

Motion withdrawn.