

and perhaps I ought not to say one word. I am not sorry after what has been said outside that this petition has come here. If the Petitioners have been speculating on their numerical majority in this House, and think that they have in consequence a chance of success, I think they are speculating on what is not likely to be realized. I have no fear at all of the most strict and rigid investigation. There is not a shadow of a foundation for the charge contained in the Petition. More I need not say, and less I could scarcely have said.

On motion of Mr. Kaulback, Wednesday the 17th instant at 2 P. M. was sat down as the time for taking the Petition into consideration.

House then adjourned until 3 P. M. to-morrow.

THURSDAY, Feb. 11.

The House met at 3 P. M.

The bill to vest certain public property in the Board of Works was read a third time, and sent to the Council.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY laid on the table certain despatches relative to the sale of unwholesome spirituous liquors to the men of the fleet stationed on the British North American station. Sir A. Milne recommends the passage of a law inflicting severe penalties upon those who sell noxious and adulterated liquors to men of her Majesty's navy.

He also presented a document from Mr. J. Lithgow, of this city, referring to a certain unsettled claim connected with the Enginehouse at Richmond. As usual with such matters, the papers were referred to the Railway committee.

#### INITIATION OF MONEY VOTES.

Mr. KILLAM presented a money petition which he wished referred to the Committee of Trade and Navigation. He expressed his disapproval of the system of initiation of money votes, which prevented the presentation of such petitions to the House.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY said that the hon. gentleman evidently wished to do away with the system of initiation of money votes, and return to the old practice which had been found to work so prejudicially to the public interests. This system had long prevailed in the Imperial Parliament, and had been gradually adopted in Canada and other colonies. The object was to throw the whole responsibility of the public expenditure upon the government, and thus avoid the danger of extravagance with the public funds that arose from the system that had been in vogue for years. By such means alone could the country have the security that the public funds would be judiciously expended and the public credit sustained. It would be in the recollection of many old members, that, before the initiation of money votes was entrusted to the government, there was no guarantee that the expenditure would not exceed the revenue. No injury to any one could arise. If any gentleman thought the government did wrong in not acceding to the prayer of any petition, he might bring it before the House without difficulty, and

if his claim was a just one, it would probably be sanctioned by a majority.

Mr. KILLAM reiterated his opinion that the system was opposed to the public interests. His desire was to see both sides of the House placed in an equal position in all matters. Under the rule in practice, it was in the power of the Government to overlook entirely the claims of those who were politically opposed to it.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that he considered it absolutely necessary, in any country enjoying responsible government, that the Executive should have the power of initiating all money votes. He pointed out examples of injudicious expenditure before the system in question was put in practice in this Province.

Mr. KILLAM said that he was as anxious as any gentleman present to maintain the public credit, but he did not consider that it would be endangered by the principle he advocated.

Mr. BOURINOT said that he had opposed the practice when it was first introduced, believing that it gave too great power to the Government. He had carefully observed its working, and was no more convinced of its utility than he had been at the outset. He felt, as did many other gentlemen, that it withdrew a great deal of the privilege that fairly appertained to a member of the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE referred to the fact that the rule had worked admirably in New Brunswick, where it was most rigidly carried out.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL said that the whole discussion was premature. Whilst the rule was in practice, the question could not be brought before the House legitimately except under a resolution.

#### DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.

Mr. CHURCHILL presented a petition from the inhabitants of Windsor, relative to the bill that passed last Session, for the establishment of Dalhousie College.

(The petitioners set forth that they consider with regret and alarm the act in question; that it can be used for sectarian purposes; that it is inconsistent with the equal claims of other denominations for legislative aid. In conclusion, they pray that the act be amended so as to do no injustice to any other religious body, and that the debt now owing the Province be differently appropriated.)

Mr. LOCKE suggested that the petition was for money and could not be received.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY did not think that the hon. gentleman was correct. Under any circumstance it would be well to give every facility to those who wished the question ventilated.

Mr. BLANCHARD believed that the petition clearly asked for money.

Mr. JAMES McDONALD did not wish there should be shown any disposition to prevent the question being fully investigated.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that the petition did not ask for any additional charge upon the revenue, but only for a different appropriation. He was desirous of having the whole matter fully enquired into.

The petition was allowed to lie on the table for the present.