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PARLIAMENTARY.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

From the Quebec Mercury.

[illegible]day, May 1st, 1863.

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

MOTION OF NON-CONFIDENCE.

Hon. Mr. SICOTTE—(to the clerk at the table)—Pass over all the other items and call the 12th. (Hear, hear.)

The Clerk then read the 12th item, which was for the House to go again into Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. SICOTTE—I move, Mr. Speaker, that you do now leave the chair.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—I beg to move, in amendment, that the Speaker do not now leave the chair, but that it be resolved that the Administration, as at present constituted, is not deserving of the confidence of this House. (Opposition cheers.)

Hon. Mr. FOLEY—All right.

Hon. Mr. SICOTTE—Lost, on a division. (Laughter.)

The SPEAKER then put the motion from the chair.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—seconded by Mr. Cartier.—After many grave deliberations (he went on to say), and the fullest considerations given to the present circumstances of the country, he, and those who had acted with him, had come to the conclusion to move the resolution which had been placed in the Speaker's hands—that the Ministry as at present constituted did not deserve the confidence of the House. He felt assured that this was the proper course to be pursued to ascertain whether those who had the management of the civil administration, and in a certain sense the military administration, of the affairs of the country, in a constitutional sense, held that position in the House which would enable them, usefully to the people, to continue at the head of public affairs. The course he was now taking to ascertain that fact was that most in accordance with constitutional usage, and least calculated to obstruct the public business. He was quite sure that the constitutional advisers of the Crown, under a constitutional form of government, did not themselves desire to hold office for one moment longer than they knew they had the confidence of the representatives of the people, and therefore of the people. (Hear, hear.) He knew that they would scorn to hold office if they thought they and their measures were at the mercy of the majority of the House who did not agree with them in their political opinions. The course now taken by the Opposition was not that of obstruction; and if, after the vote was taken, the House were convinced that the Government had a fair working majority, the Opposition would continue to act as they had hitherto acted, in such a manner as to forward and promote the progress of the public legislation, and assist in the administration of the affairs of the country, as far as they could do, and not offer a factious obstruction. (Hear, hear, from the Opposition.) He begged to be permitted to quote the language used by Sir Robert Peel, in 1841, when moving a vote of want of confidence in the Government of the day, in the House of Commons. Sir Robert Peel said he thought the more manly and open way to ascertain whether the Administration did or did not possess the confidence of the people was to test the question in a direct manner, and not to embarrass them on their measures. And so he (Hon. Mr. J. A. Macdonald) had, in following the example of that distinguished statesman, framed his motion in the most simple and direct manner possible. He thought this plan infinitely better than the course followed by the late Opposition.—Their mode of proceeding was legitimate enough. It was quite competent for them to test the strength of the Government on the Militia Bill. But he did not think it prudent. On looking over the papers sent sent down to Parliament this Session, they found the Colonial Minister stating that apprehensions had been occasioned in England in consequence of the rejection of that measure, and the impression which that step had produced was that the people of this country were not true to themselves. Those who, like himself, had visited England since the vote was taken, would bear out out this statement.—Wherever they went, when in England, this question was brought up—it was cast in the teeth of every visitor in England from Canada. In the face of all these taunts, he felt himself constrained to stand up in vindication of the patriotism of the people, when that patriotism was impugned—he said that the vote was not to be charged to a want of patriotism on the part of the people, but to their want of confidence in the Government. (Hear, hear.) He scorned to make political capital at the expense of the country, altho' he thought then as he thought now, that the step taken was injurious to the best interests of the people. The vote on the Militia Bill was in the nature of a vote of want of confidence, and as a vote of want of confidence, they accepted it. The late Government fell on that question, and the hon. gentlemen opposite assumed the reins of power. They took office under circumstances of considerable difficulty—difficulty occasioned by the state of parties in this House and the condition of affairs on this continent—and the position in which they found themselves placed was such as to call for forbearance from those who could not accord them their confidence. The Ministry went to their elections unopposed, and the Opposition had ever since given them the fairest opportunity to strengthen themselves in the country.—They allowed them to prepare for Parliament, and to submit to Parliament those measures which were regarded by them as of vital importance to the country; and in now proposing this resolution he (Mr. Macdonald) desired to say that he brought it forward on political considerations only. It was the fair and constitutional mode of ascertaining whether they held their offices in accordance with the terms of the constitution; and he had great pleasure in stating that there were among the individuals composing the Administration, gentlemen for whom he had personally the highest respect. Sure he was that the motion he now made would not in any way interrupt the friendly relations which subsisted between them. (Hear, hear.) The late Government had been attacked year after year for the course they had chosen to take with regard to the questions of the day. One of these was the question of Representation by Population; and when the new Ministry was formed, with the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the Postmaster-General and the Solicitor General West, it was taken for granted that these gentlemen had taken office for the purpose of carrying out that principle and settling the question. The late Ministry had been condemned for not grappling with that question, by gentlemen now on the Treasury benches—gentlemen whose ability he was no disposed to question. And the Commissioner of Crown Lands, with his usual eloquence, had charged it as a crime against the late Ministry that they had denied justice to the people of Upper Canada in this matter. He (Mr. Macdonald) was not one who would blame any man for changing his opinion upon any public question; but when he found gentlemen who a short time before the formation of the present Administration had declared that if this question were not settled, it would be dangerous to the peace and prosperity of the country, enter a government on the express condition that this very question should be held in abeyance, he could not resist the conviction that they had bartered their principles for the sake of office. (Hear, hear.)—He (Mr Macdonald) could not have believed that they would have done this; and he was astonished when during this Session of Parliament the Commissioner of Crown Lands delivered a speech in which he declared that he had never supported the principle of Representation by Population. He (Mr. Macdonald) proceeded to read from a speech delivered by the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Simcoe in 1860, in which he accepted the political doctrines of the Reform Convention and said that Representation by Population would be an act of injustice to Lower Canada. The gravamen of his (Mr. Macdonald's) charge against that honorable gentleman was then, that having made this declaration at Simcoe, in 1860, he should, in March, 1862, have moved an amendment to the Address regretting that the Administration had not recognized the principle and granted the just demands of the people of Upper Canada. (Hear, hear.) This was the charge he had to make against the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and he thought it was one which could not be easily explained away. He went on to remark upon the principle of the Double Majority, upon which the present Administration was formed, and how it had been set aside on the question of Separate Schools. The Premier seemed to have been governed for a moment by principle, for, when a complaint was made that that measure was fixed upon Upper Canada against the wishes of a majority of its representatives, he had said "it is not yet fixed upon it." This gave hope that that gentleman had not departed from his cherished principles; but when he retired to his pillow that night he began to reflect that he would not like to return to the "cold shades of the Opposition, that his political constitution was unable to bear this, and accordingly he determined to throw aside principle and continue to enjoy office. (Hear, hear.) For this the member for South Oxford and some of those who formerly acted with him found fault with the Ministry, although they gave them their support in their general policy. He blamed the Administration then for having abandoned principle in entering office, and abandoned it in order to retain it. [Hear, hear.] He then alluded to the Intercolonial Railway negotiations, and said it was the impression in England that the Canadian delegates had acted with a want of candor that was highly reprehensible. This impression was confirmed by a paragraph he had seen in the *Globe* while in England, to the following, to the following effect:—"Messrs. Sicotte and Howland have accomplished the object of their mission, which was to throw overboard the Intercolonial Railway." [Cheers and laughter.]

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD argued that the Canadian delegates had not acted in good faith towards the delegates from the other Provinces and the Imperial authorities, because they had found that public sentiment in Canada was opposed to the construction of the Railway. In support of this argument he quoted from the correspondence upon the question, and he declared his belief that it was undoubted the Government had broken faith with the other Provinces, in order that office might be retained. He next proceeded to speak of the course of the Government with reference to the Grand Trunk. The late Government, knowing what charges would be made against them if they conceded the claims of the Company, agreed to an arbitration, as was frequently done in England, to decide what was justly due the Company for the service it performed for the country. The Grand Trunk appointed as its arbitrator a gentleman of great experience in the United States, and the Government a gentleman far removed above suspicion, a thorough Canadian and an honest, and independent man—the Hon. George Moffatt. The Government had also proposed as an umpire either Chief Justice Draper or Mr. Justice Richards—they did not care which—as both were highly honorable men. Well, at this stage, the new Government came into office, and found that the arrangement had been entered into. They wrote to Chief Justice Draper, asking him to assume the duties of umpire; but suddenly, and without just cause or excuse, they broke off the agreement and refused to perform an act of justice which they had solemnly promised to carry out. And why was this arrangement so violated and set aside? Because some of the newspapers of the country had cried out against it and the Administration fell at it would be unpopular and they would lose office if they carried the arbitration into effect, although it was only an act of justice to the Company. This was another instance of the utter bad faith of the Government. [Hear, hear.] And yet, notwithstanding that they had violated this solemn agreement they had entered into, they had introduced a Bill acknowledging the propriety and justice of the course of the previous Administration, but as there was objection to this in the newspapers, they would perhaps not press it for fear of endangering the popularity and their hold of office. [Hear, hear.] Then, with regard to the Militia, they had not only broken faith, but had committed an absolute breach of the law, in refusing to pay to a certain class of Volunteers that to which they were justly entitled. He would, however, leave this matter to the members for Montreal Centre and Peterboro [Col. Haultain] who had justly denounced the bad faith of the Government towards these Volunteers. The fact was, the Government seemed to have so little nerve that they feared the slightest breath of popular disapproval, and would do no act of justice, no matter how clearly apparent their duty it was to do it if there was the slightest danger of their thereby losing a vote or becoming unpopular in the country. [Hear, hear.] The hon. gentleman next proceeded to comment upon the measures submitted to Parliament by the Government. They were all done now, with the exception of the Representation Bill, and that they seemed apprehensive of producing. The Insolvency Bill they had brought down was now no longer theirs, for it had been so altered in Committee that it no longer resembled the measure first introduced. The fact showed how ill-prepared and ill-digested was the legislation the Administration proposed to the House. Then, with reference to the Militia Bill, it was a measure which proposed the maximum of expense with the minimum of results. It attained absolutely nothing, and the money which might be spent under it might as well be thrown away. It was besides unsuited to the wants of the country; for as the Montreal *Witness*—a paper not unfriendly to the Ministry—said of it, it proposed "conscription in its worst and most objectionable form." [Hear, hear.] It was no improvement whatever upon the present Militia system of the country, which resembled that in operation in the State of Massachusetts, which, during the unfortunate war which is now waged in the neighboring country, had been found the most efficient in raising men and preparing them for service.—He [Mr. Macdonald] did not desire to depreciate the value of the Volunteer system, but in time of danger he did not believe it was, as provided in the Bill, sufficient to meet the public requirements for defence, especially in cities and towns having a large extent of floating population. He did not think, there fore, that in depending entirely upon the Volunteer system the Government was pursuing a wise course. Besides, the Bill had been drawn up in the most careless manner, and in proof of this, he would mention that in the first part of it it provided that the enrolment was not take place till July, 1864, and in the last clause it provided that the Role of the Militia law at present in force should be repealed from the time of the passing of this Bill. [Hear, hear, and cheers.] That showed the hasty consideration that had been given by the Government to the subject.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Oh! that may be a slight mistake! [Laughter.]

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD said it was one of the innumerable evidences of the fact that the Bill had been cobbled up during the Easter recess, instead of having been carefully prepared during the year that the Government had held office. [Hear, hear.] Then, what was the whole course of the Administration with reference to the question of the Militia, and what reluctance had they shown to take any steps towards placing the country in a proper state of defence? Why, it was not till October, 1862, months after they had assumed office, that they had made any efforts in this direction. They had no policy whatever upon the question up to that time, and did nothing until the Governor General absolutely forced them to do something. Hear, hear.] Lord Monck had in effect told them in October that the matter must be settled. and until it was that Messrs. Sicotte and Howland should not leave the country.—[Hear, hear.]

Hon. Mr. CAUCHON—They had to be whipped up to it. [Laughter.]

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD.—We did all we promised last year in the Bill introduced in our behalf by the member for Peterboro, and our Militia scheme has been prepared in the meantime, and is now before the House

Hon. J A MACDONALD read the letter of Lord Monck of October 24, 1862, and argued from it that the Government had no views, no policy, and no design to do anything upon the subject of the Militia. (Hear.)

Hon Mr SICOTTE—The hon gentleman is mistaken. He will see by the document that what was required from the government, their views, were communicated to His Excellency.

Hon J A MACDONALD—After the letter?

Hon Mr SICOTTE—Exactly. (Laughter.)

Hon J A MACDFNALD went on to argue that the scheme of the Government was illusory and would be found altogether impracticable if occasion arose for the services of the Militia to defend the country. He read from the letter of Lord Monck to the Duke of Newcastle and also a letter of the Premier to the Governor General in support of his position, that the Militia Bill did not provide the means required to put the country in a proper state of preparation to meet the hazardous and threatening condition of affairs that prevailed.

Hon J S MACDONALD—You want a compulsory mode of enrollment?

Hon J S MACDONALD—No, but that is what the Bill provides.

Hon J S MACDONALD—Not more compulsory than under the present law.

Hon J S MACDONALD—Yes, it does.

Hon J S MACDONALD—No, because it provides that the machinery shall not be put in operation except in time of danger.

Hon J A MACDONALD said if the hon gentleman contended that the Bill was not more compulsory in its provisions than the present law, he must be ignorant either of the law or of the provisions of the proposed measure. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) And this was the conscription—this the cast-iron principle on which the defence of the country was to be provided for. There was but one example of the same principle being now in force; and that was in France, under Napoleon. It dragged with a ruthless conscription the people of the country to defend their homes. And this was the Bill, the only Bill he might say, on which the Administration of the day had claimed to the confidence of the country; because the Representation Bill would not be brought in, and the Postal Service Bill had gone to the tomb of all the Capulets. The Militia Bill of the late Government was rejected on the score of expense; and the chiefs of the men who would not provide for the defence of the country because of its cost, had no sooner taken office than they were ready to plunge into much greater expense for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. The progress of that work was urged on the ground of military necessity, not withstanding the fact that the real mode of defending the country had been rejected. On a survey of the whole ground, it would be seen that the Government had been weighed in the balance and found wanting; and there was no man in the House or out of the House who could honestly say that they had proved themselves deserving the confidence of the country. [Opposition cheers.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he was sorry that he was not in his place when the hon. member for Kingston commenced his remarks; but the observations the hon. gentleman was offering to the House when he (Hon. J. S. Macdonald) entered were certainly such as to call from him an expression of approval. For he was conceding the principle that the Government assumed the reins of power during a period of unparalleled difficulty, and that they were deserving of all possible consideration at the hands of their opponents. He then went on to say that he was sure that the members on that (the Government) side of the House would scorn to hold office for a moment longer than they felt assured of being in possession of the confidence of the country. These sentiments met with his (Hon. J. S. Macdonald's) entire approval. Nor could he find fault with the general tone of the speech of the hon. member for Kingston. He had on the whole adopted a calm and cool mode of argumentation, and only in one or two instances had he assumed a more impassioned tone in regard to the various topics he had brought before the House. He (Mr. J. S. Macdonald) was not surprised at the course which the Opposition had taken in bringing forward the motion now before the House. They had but a few months returned from the country, where they had made the triumphant boast that notwithstanding the "double shuffle"—(laughter)—they had achieved a great victory at the polls, when they were completely beaten and sent to the right about. (Cheers.) They supposed themselves strong, but on the first occasion of their presumed strength being tested, they fell in pieces like a bundle of sticks. He was not surprised therefore, that, soured with disappointment, they should attempt to return to the old positions they occupied on the Treasury benches. (Hear, hear.) They tried their strength on that portion of their policy relating to the organization of the Militia, and the result was the complete prostration of all their deeply-cherished hopes. The Bill they brought down to provide for the defence of the country was pretendedly such as was suited for the purpose, but was entirely beyond the capabilities of the people. Well he recollected the labored efforts of the hon. member for Kingston to show the manifold advantages of the measure, and well also he knew how signally it was defeated. That, too, was a time when the country was in much greater danger of invasion than before or since. (Hear, hear.) But in spite of the threatening aspect of affairs, the Bill the hon. member for Kingston introduced was so antagonistic to the feelings, and so utterly opposed to the genius of the people, that it was summarily rejected, and amidst universal execration. (Cheers.) When defeated, the late Government caused the declaration to be circulated, from one end of the country to the other, that nothing but fair play was to be extended to their opponents. Fair play, indeed, from men who had themselves been condemned! (Hear, hear.) Why, what could they have done? (Hear, hear.) Here was a party who had been voted down in the House; ousted from office, declared unworthy of administering the affairs of the country, keeping silent because they were powerless to attack, and then having the assurance to claim credit for fair play towards their opponents!—[Cheers.] Talk about favor and fair play at their hands. Why, they had entirely lost the confidence of the country; and, pray, on what grounds could they have attacked, if they had been inclined to do so? The House was one built by the hon. member for Kingston and his friends—it was a House returned on their policy, and under the influence of all the patronage they had to bestow—and when those who had constructed the House were condemned by their own supporters, and a new Government was called in, the time was so short that they had to hurry on their measures and to make such temporary provisions as the circumstances admitted of until the next meeting of the Parliament. He was assured that there were hon. gentlemen on the other side who at that time felt the difficulties of the position in which the Government were placed, and who were anxious to deal fairly by them. But that could not be said by the party generally. They insisted on a caucus being held, and that, notwithstanding their professions of fair play, the Government should at once come down with their measures. The next move was to give the Government three or four months to get ready to meet Parliament again in October; but that movement also was defeated. Yes, the hon. member for Peel (Mr. J. H. Cameron) was prepared with a proposition, assented to by a large number on the other side of the House, for adjourning the House until October, when the House were to come down with a Militia Bill. At every turn, they endeavored to embarass the Government and to check legislation; and afterwards laid claim to fair play! (Hear, hear.) They found, however, that this would not answer. They found that the estimate formed of their appeals to loyalty was clap-trap. For twenty years they had used loyalty as their stock-in trade; and now it had entirely failed. [Hear, hear.] They found the gentlemen on the other side of the House as loyal as themselves. But they, whilst they maintained their loyalty to the Queen, at the same time held the doctrine of loyalty to their constituents and the country. There were two descriptions of treason, as of loyalty—treason to the Crown and treason to the people; and the present occupants of the Treasury benches felt that it would be treason to the people had they forced on them a measure of such a monstrous and hurtful nature as that of the rejected Bill. The people of Canada were prepared to defend their country, but they were not prepared to build up an immense army—to withdraw a large class from the labor and industry of the Province. The Bill was received with such contempt that no effort had been made to resuscitate it. Well, after Parliament prorogued a movement was made to injure the Government; and the hon. member for Kingston did not think it beneath his dignity to endeavor to galvanize his friends in the Thames Division. He went to Otterville, and made a ratting speech about the position of the Government, their faithlessness to the pledges, and their abnegation of principle. And what was the consequence? By a majority of 700 votes, the people of Thames declared their confidence in the Government. [Cheers.] After his experience in that part of the country, the hon. member returned to Kingston, and made no other election tours from that time to this. [Hear, hear, and laughter.] It was the same all over Upper Canada. In nearly every instance the Legislative Council election turned in favor of the Government. [Hear, hear.]

Mr. POWELL—How is the hon. gentleman from your district?

Mr. D. A. MACDONALD—All right. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD was sure the hon. gentleman was not with the hon. member for Carleton any way. [Laughter.] Then, when the House met, the Government was attacked, not for any policy they had introduced, because that policy had not been eliminated by any measure of theirs at that time, but the whole of the charges were brought against them because of four of his hon. friends behind him, because, in view of the state of things then existing, they thought it incumbent on them to make sacrifices in order to respond to the call of His Excellency the Governor General to assist in carrying on the government of the country, and who, in that respect, but followed the example of the greatest of British statesmen. (Hear, hear.) There was no vote of want of confidence at that time—it would not have been prudent to have brought forward a vote of want of confidence; but scarcely had the papers that supported the Opposition ceased praising them for their forbearance, than threats were heard which had now culminated in the vote of no confidence in the hands of the Speaker, it was not necessary for him to defend his honorable friends behind him, who, as Canadians, as patriots, as lovers of their country, had made sacrifices for the benefit of the country, and which the country approved of, and had already defended. (Hear, hear.) Their programme was published to the world fully and fairly. Upon that programme they went to the country, and were triumphantly returned with the country's endorsation. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—Would they go now?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Most cheerfully would they go now, and most unquestionably they would be sustained. (Cheering.) His hon. friend, he supposed, threw out this remarks to whip his supporters into the belief that the Ministry were not prepared to go to the country. They were ready—quite ready to go to the country. (Cheers.) But the authors of the double shuffle had endeavored to imbue their friends with the conviction that they would not get a dissolution. They said—"Oh! the hon. gentlemen opposite will not be allowed to dissolve. We shall succeed them, if you turn them out, and remain in office two years. We shall then dissolve Parliament and go to the country. It is not to be thought of that any party should have an election except under the auspices of ourselves, who have the prescriptive right to appeal to the country." (Hear, hear.) That was the language they used. But the Government now in power were also prepared to go to the country; and the best evidence they had that they would come back strengthened was to be found in the fact that every one of the men who had submitted themselves to the constituencies on the policy of the Government—every man of them had been returned. (Cheers.) Forbearance! Forbearance from the other side of the House! Whenever did they forbear, except when they were powerless to strike? When they were driven to sue for fair-play or forbearance from that quarter, good Lord deliver them! (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr. POWELL—What about the Double Majority?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he did not interrupt the hon. member for Kingston, and he did not desire to be interrupted. The hon. member for Carleton knew that his voice was not very strong.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD gave the hon. member credit for believing that it was not. The Government had been arraigned. They were on their trial, and had a right at all events, to a hearing. [Hear, hear.] As he was saying, the elections took place for the Upper House, and of the Upper Canada members five of the six were in favor of the Government, whilst the sixth differed with them on one or two questions. [Cheers.] That afforded an evidence of the popularity of the Government in Upper Canada, at all events. And what was the case in Lower Canada? Why, not a single candidate came forward who did not condemn the hon. gentlemen opposite, and even when the Provincial Secretary went to his election they were obliged to resort to no [illegible] Rouge to oppose him. [Hear, hear.] They could not persuade a candidate [illegible] the field, but they came into the ranks of their opponents, and asked as a favor to be allowed to bring them forward and support them. Could anything show more clearly than that the estimation in which the present Opposition were held by the country, and the miserable strain to which they were driven? There was not a man who had the courage to come forward and declare he was in favor of the compulsory system and the conscription principle to which the honorable member for Kingston had given in his adherence to-day. [Hear, hear.]

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—You have not read my Bill.

Hon. J. S. MACDONAD had left it to the country to be read. [Hear, hear, and laughter.] If he believed that Bill to be so efficacious and suitable to the wants of the country, why did he not move it in amendment to the Militia bill now before the House? He had had a year in which to indoctrinate his friends as to its excellencies. He had also made the most by way of attacking the Government for an assumed insult to the brave officers in the Crimea. One would have thought that on the Militia question, at any rate, he would have ventured a trial of strength. But he [Mr. J. S. Macdonald] defied the hon. gentleman to test the feeling on this subject. (Hear, hear.) Then, his [Mr. Macdonald's] honorable friends had been accused of having abandoned their life-long profession of policy in regard to Representation by Population. He confessed that a charge of that kind coming from the honorable member for Kingston, was the most ludicrous that he should fling across the House a charge of inconsistency on that question, was a most singular and instructive fact. The honorable gentleman had said more against Representation by Population than had ever been spoken by himself [Mr. J. S. Macdonald.] He [Mr. J. S. Macdonald] had always said that the time had not come when Representation by Population should be demanded. He never expressed an opinion in opposition to the principle. But the honorable member for Kingston burlesqued the whole matter. He declared that it was a principle that could not be applied in our country—that it was a revolutionary movement—that it would lead to universal suffrage. And at the same time he was at the head of a party, three-fourths of whose members from his own section of the country took a diametrically opposite view declaring that the peace and quietness, the prosperity and good government of the country, the fair and equitable distribution of the taxes—everything, indeed, of importance depended upon the concession of that principle. [Hear, hear.] Then, also, three-fourths of the Upper Canada supporters of the honorable gentleman had declared against Separate Schools—while the honorable gentleman himself admitted the other night, that in order to retain power he was willing to give the Catholics all they asked. [Hear, hear, and laughter.] A stranger would think that the honorable member for Kingston was the best Catholic in the country. [Laughter.] But on Representation by Population the honorable gentleman did not always hold his present views. He used, some years ago, to vote for it; but contemplating a coalition to which he thought it would be unpalatable, he abandoned it, as he had in turn abandoned everything else, and gave up a cherished principle for the sake of office. [Hear, hear.] The hon. gentleman would no doubt say that the vote he gave for Representation by Population was intended to defeat the Government of the day. But he could not get over the fact that in the motion then before the House the principle was most distinctly and clearly laid down.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD said the only issue in which he voted for Representation by Population was that of non-confidence in the Ministry.

Hon. Mr. FOLEY—The hon. gentleman voted for it several times.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD desired the House to bear this in mind after what they had heard from the mouth of the hon. member for Kingston on the subject of Representation by Population. It should likewise be borne in mind that he had made the Clergy Reserves a *cheval de bataille* for years. He voted time and again against the secularization of these resources, declaring it an act of spoliation and a republican measure; but afterwards turned round and gave it his support, as he had supported Representation by Population.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD said he had never supported Representation by Population.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—Yes; the honorable gentleman spoke and voted for Mr. Dickson's motion in favor of Representation by Population in 1853. [Hear, hear.]

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—Why, I was away in Kingston at the time.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—No; the hon. gentleman was present. I spoke on the question, and he will remember that after I had taken my seat he crossed the House and congratulated me on my speech, which he said expressed precisely his own views. [Cheers.]

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Then we find my hon. friend speaking against the registration of voters as a most outrageous measure.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD said he had not done so.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said his hon. friend's memory was good enough when in the Government, but it became very oblivious when he crossed the House. Perhaps he would also deny his position on the Seigniorial Tenure question. He once declared it an act of robbery to the people of Upper Canada; but finding that he and his party could not ride into power with the views they then held, they went to the elections on the breaking up of Mr. Hincks's Government in 1854, and when they came back they ignored all their previous acts, and accepted office on the condition of making the Seigniorial question a part of their policy. [Hear, hear.] The truth was that they would carry that or anything else in the world in order to get into power. [Hear, hear.] So much for the consistency of the hon. member for Kingston. That hon. gentleman had been rather severe on the the hon. member for North Oxford [Mr. Macdougall], on account of Representation by Population. But he knew very well that the hon member had tested the question in this present Parliament, and finding that it could not be obtained, he had acted as a statesman, and as a lover of his country, in suffering that question to remain for awhile in abeyance that he might assist in rescuing the Province from the difficulties into which it had been plunged. [Hear, hear.] The hon. member for Kingston endeavored to make a strong point of the feeling existing in England in relation to the Militia, and he [Mr. J. S. Macdonald] was not surprised that such a feeling should prevail in that country. The fact was the late Government had raised the expectations of the people at home to such a height as to lead them to believe that a most costly military establishment was to be kept up in this Province and there was a corresponding disappointment when the force was apportioned to our means. Hon. gentlemen who had visited England last year, in order to make themselves popular with the people of that country, promised the large draft of 100,000 and 150,000 men. [Hear, hear.] Private letters had been received in which this was broadly stated, and when that was not carried out which had been promised, there was loud clamour and lamentation, and the present Government were charged with being indifferent to the defence of the country. It was known here, however, though not here, that the Bill which was submitted for the measure of the late Government was of less cost and magnitude, though far more efficacious. [Cheers.] [Cries of "six o'clock."]

Buffalo and Lake Huron Railroad

TIME TABLE.

SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.

GOING EAST.

		Day Express.
GODERICH	DEP	8.30 A. M.
CLINTON	"	9.08 "
HARPURHEY	"	9.30 "
SEAFORTH	"	9.36 "
CARRONBROOK	"	9.55 "
MITCHELL	"	10.11 "
STRATFORD	ARR.	10.50 "
"	DEP.	12.35 P. M.

GOING WEST.

STRATFORD	ARR.	2.28 P. M.
"	DEP.	2.50 "
MITCHELL	"	3.33 "
CARRON BROOK	"	3.52 "
SEAFORTH	"	4.15 "
HARPURHEY	"	4.21 "
CLINTON	"	4.45 "
GODERICH	DEP.	5.30 "

Connects at Stratford with Grand Trunk and at Paris with Great Western. Daily Stages from Goderich to all parts of the surrounding country. Passengers reach Ports on the coast by VanEvery and Rumball's steamers.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., MAY 8, 1863.

THE WANT OF CONFIDENCE MOTION.

On our first and second pages we give the speeches of the leaders in the House on the motion, which will be read with interest. It was expected that the vote would have been taken on the motion of J. A. Macdonald yesterday, but through some over-sight on the part of our Quebec correspondent, the result has not been telegraphed as we expected.—The vote will be a close one, and it is impossible to say which will win. It is almost certain that, in case of a defeat of the Ministry, the House will be dissolved.

VERY LATEST FROM QUEBEC.—We have just learned by special telegraph that the vote *was* taken, as expected, and that the Ministry has been defeated by a majority of *five*. The House, our correspondent thinks, will surely be dissolved. If so, these counties will have an easy task. James Dickson will be returned by acclamation.

THE RESULT OF THE GREAT BATTLES ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

FREQUENT and terrible as have been the disasters to the Federal arms during the War, they have been climaxed by the humiliating defeat just sustained on the Rappahannock. We believe this will prove the *Waterloo* of the War. There is certainly reason to believe that it has been the most terrible and sanguinary conflict which ever took place on the American Continent. The force engaged on both sides was very great. General Hooker previous to his late desperate attempt had under his command, according to official reports, 159,382 men—the very flower of the Federal chivalry. What force Lee had to meet this host is not known, but it also, must have been large. We must not underrate the ability of "Fighting Joe," for he fought his men well, and nobly struggled for the mastery. The assailant, he avoided at Burnside by striking after [illegible] as far as realized. [illegible] tage of fighting upon ground of your own selection. He was determined to [illegible] well-knowing that in all probability the fate of the whole struggle trembled in the balance on this single field. Victory would have cheered the heart of the whole North, and would it was thought certainly strike terror into the hearts of the Southern leaders. But Hooker's determination was fully matched by that of Lee. *He*, also, felt the full weight of the enormous interests at stake, and his motto, as well as that of his whole army, was, evidently, "Victory or Death!" His men threw themselves upon the mouths of the Federal cannon, and when Hooker had strengthened himself on Sunday at Chancellor-house, Lee announced with terrible earnestness, "*that line must be broken*, at all hazards!" We acknowledge that the vainglorious boasting of Federal reporters had almost led us to believe that the Confederates would be forced to retire. But yesterday's news brings the startling announcement that poor Hooker, sad and dejected, in order to save the remnant of his once fine army had determined to recross the river, the battle of Tuesday having decided against him. Whether he succeeded in getting safely across, remains to be seen. The last accounts are that only a portion of one corps was over, and that notwithstanding the [illegible] Burnside di[illegible] had commenced on [illegible] icating that Lee was [illegible] terrible artillery. If [illegible] covered bridge was destr[illegible] on earth could prevent the [illegible] of the greater portion of Hook[illegible] in the murky, rainy, awful gloom of Tuesday night, and possibly a repetition of the horrors of Boridino! Great fears were entertained that the Confederates would cross the river higher up and intercept the disordered mass of Federal soldiers in the muddy roads on the Northern side. The realization of any of these fears would render the disaster, bad as it was, perfectly irremediable, and Gen. Lee, depend upon it, will now bend every energy to follow up his advantage. True, a great portion of his army must be almost worn out after a five day's battle, but the "heavy reinforcements" of fresh men would be in a position to play the part of Blucher's Prussians at Waterloo. A day or two will tell the whole story.

"Where Ignorance is Bliss, IS it Folly to be Wise?"

We have a word to say to those who are "unreasonable" enough to attribute the recent defeat in some mysterious way to the Huron *Signal* Extra. Yesterday afternoon we had to meet enough of reproach and insult to have disgusted any person but an editor, on account of the dispatch from N. Y. about Gen. Hooker's defeat, some of the admirers of Mr. Lincoln seeming actually to think that the whole thing was specially cooked up for the occasion. We admit that there is frequently an immense amount of telegraphic lying, but it all comes from New York, the centre of American Civilization. Our extra of yesterday, which contained news at least 28 hours ahead of Toronto papers, was published word for word as it came from New York, and was circulated through the streets of that city about noon in the shape of Extras by hundreds of thousands. The dispatches come to us in the following manner: They are sent from New York to Buffalo and from thence to Hamilton, Toronto, Goderich, &c. The operator yesterday told us most important news was ready to come over the wires, if we would pay double price for it. We consented at once, although we did not know a word as to whether it would tell of victory or defeat, until it arrived. How silly then, to say we only give extras when there is a Federal defeat. The great reason why it has been so frequently that way is because there have been, as everybody knows, very few *Federal victories* to give by Extra or in any other manner. The readers of the Semi-Weekly and Weekly *Signal* may rest assured that we shall spare no pains to place them in possession of the latest news, and that we will never circulate a known falsehood. The reward we expect is a continuation of the kind support and patronage hitherto received.

Important from Europe.

NEW YORK, May 6.—The steamship *Australasian*, from Liverpool on the 25th April, *via* Queenstown the 26th, arrived here at nine o'clock.

The Norwegian took out brief advices of the important debates in both Houses of Parliament, concerning the seizure of British ships in neutral waters, and the protection granted by Mr. Adams, the American Minister, to Mexican waters.

Many of the speakers urged that such proceedings cannot be tolerated.

Mr. Roebuck declared himself prepared for war to put down such upstart insolence.

Ministers and their supporters counselled moderation, and deprecated the violence of some speakers.

Lord Palmerston simply said matters were being considered.

Earl Russell said that the seizure of the Dolphin and the conduct of Minister Adams would be represented to the Washington authorities for redress.

Many journals [illegible] that the American government [illegible] learn a lesson from the [illegible] it desires to increase [illegible] unless [illegible] as critical, [illegible] badly for [illegible] 24th ult., [illegible] the inter[illegible] the House of Lords [illegible] the Federals. [illegible] Ridedale called [illegible] more mon[illegible] with the mail[illegible] Americans to deal [illegible] Derby said astonished that the Government [illegible] the [illegible]

Earl Russell's [illegible] practice was in a great degree sanctioned by Stowell, but the instructions had been modified. He would obtain opinion of the law officers of the Crown and lay it on the table.

In the House of Commons, on the 24th ult., the Solicitor General, in reply to an enquiry by Lord Churchill, said that British merchantmen were not authorized to resist capture by Federal cruisers. They would, by doing so, be subject to condemdation.

Mr Horsfall asserted that there was nothing to justify the seizure of the Alexandria; and denied that she was intended for the Confederates. He shewed the benefits the Federals were deriving from the free shipment of warlike stores, and even recruits, and urged the Government to impartially administer the Foreign Enlistment Act.

The Attorney General justified the seizure, and said the case would take its legal course.

Mr. Cobden asserted that America had always acted up to the principles of the foreign enlistment act toward England, and demanded that England should act in like spirit toward America. He denounced the case of the Alabama and said she should be seized.

Sir Fitz Roy asked if the Government was taking steps to protect the postal service to Mexico.

Lord Palmerston said that England's commercial interests with Mexico had the best security in the belief that the United States government would not make seizures without due cause, and there was reason to believe the United States prize courts would not act unjustly. British consuls would receive and open suspected mails, and would in honor deliver up any correspondence contrary to good faith.

The *Daily News* regards the interest in Mr. Horsfall's motion as painfully significant.

The British squadron in the Pacific was to be strengthened.

The steamer Sea Queen has left Falmouth for Matamoras, without mails or any definite promise of protection.

The Polish insurgents continue active.

CRACOW, April 25.—The *Czas* of to-day says the Russian of the guard, who were pursuing the Poles, have been beaten by them with the loss of 300 killed and wounded. Yesterday four engagements were fought between the Poles and the Russian troops in the vicinity of the Cracow and Warsaw railway.

By Telegraph.

Special Despatch to the Signal.

FEDERAL DEFEAT.

HOOKER FORCED TO RE-CROSS THE RIVER.

CONFED'S REINFORCED.

STONEMAN AND HIS WHOLE FORCE CUT OFF!

THE CONED. CAVALRY ACROSS TO CUT OFF PURSUIT!

Hooker Deeply Dejected! The 'Waterloo' of the War!!!

New York, May 6.

The morning papers do not contain a line of news relating to our movements additional to what was telegraphed from there yesterday.

Nothing of war matters was telegraphed from Washington last night to any quarter for publication.

The *World*, however, prints the following:

"We learn by a special messenger that a great battle was fought on Tuesday, and Gen. Hooker, with his army, was driven back across the Rappahanock."

Gen. Lee was heavily reinforced, and the last battle exceeded in slaughter those of previous days.

Noth