

The first paragraph of the Speech read as follows:—

It is my duty, on the present occasion, to call your attention to the question of the seat of government of Canada.

The Legislature of Canada, having resolved that a fixed seat of government should be selected, solicited our Gracious Queen, by an Address of either House, to exercise her prerogative in making such selection.

An Act, moreover, was passed, adopting beforehand the decision of Her Majesty, and appropriating the necessary funds.

This Act of the Canadian Parliament and the decision of the Queen are binding on the Executive Government of the Province, and it will be their duty to carry out the understanding which existed at the time when the reference was made, by which the Government will be transferred to Quebec for a fixed period, until the necessary arrangements shall have been completed.

The correspondence with Her Majesty's Government will be laid before you, and I cannot doubt that you will recognize a selection made by Her Majesty at your own request, and that you will duly acknowledge Her gracious compliance with the Addresses which you yourselves caused to be presented to Her.

To this an amendment was moved by Mr. Sicotte (who had resigned his office a few days before), seconded by Mr. Langevin,

That the paragraph be left out and the following inserted instead thereof:—"The fundamental principle of the representative system, "and one of the most important advantages resulting from it, is the "right of the majority to have their views and opinions prevail in "the administration of the country; and it is the duty of this House "to repel any attempt which might endanger a principle which for "centuries has preserved, in a wise measure of progress, the franchises and liberties of England. That, in declaring on the 28th "July last, 'that in the opinion of this House the City of Ottawa "'ought not to be the permanent seat of government of this Province,' "this House, without intending any want of respect to the Sovereign, "expressed its views and opinions on the subject of the seat of "government in the ordinary and constitutional exercise of its privileges."

The debate continued up till the 10th February, during which anxious time the Ottawa Citizens' Committee rendered good service in the lobby at Toronto and the members for Carleton—W. F. Powell, Russell, G. B. L. Fellowes,