

been adopted, the resolution could not be received.

Hon. SPEAKER ruled the resolution out of order.

Dr. MURRAY said that the resolution would reflect on the action of the Committee. It was a British principle that every man was presumed innocent until proved guilty, and the object of the resolution evidently being to prejudice the party charged, it should not be received.

Mr. YOUNG said that the House was the proper place to make such charges. The office of mines was a most important one. He was proceeding to state what the charges were when the Speaker called to order.

GENERAL STATE OF THE PROVINCE.

The House then resolved itself into Committee of the whole.

Mr. KIDSTON, continued his address. He said that the Financial Commissioners had arrived at the conclusion that the debt of the Province was \$8,946,000. Interest at five per cent. had to be paid on the excess over \$8,000,000 out of the limited revenues which could be relied on from the Mines, Hospital for Insane, Crown Land Department, and the subsidy, yielding a total of \$357,553. The road grant which, the year before Confederation was \$257,000, had been reduced to \$100,000, and the Provincial Secretary had shown the House that if the Province remained in Confederation, the Education grant, and all the other items of expenditure, must be largely curtailed. This fact indeed was acknowledged by the Confederates. It was true that one gentleman in opposition had contended that the finances were in a flourishing condition, and that the government had been highly extravagant, but he would deal candidly with the country, and not attempt to mystify and misrepresent the facts. Extravagance could not be fairly charged. The House had this year a double session, yet its stationery did not altogether exceed \$380, while in 1866, when Confederation had been plotted, the account for the same service was \$2000. Before declaring that the Government were able to meet all the wants of the country on a liberal scale, that gentleman should have taken the trouble to compare the expenditure of 1866 with that of the present year. He found that the services provided for this year had been retrenched for \$100,000 under the estimate for 1866. Why not then make the admission candidly "we have been deprived of our revenue, our public offices and the control of our trade, and our expenses must be pared down to the lowest point if direct taxation is to be avoided." The remarks which the Speaker had made would chime in with the feelings of every man in the Province having the true interests of his country at heart. Birds of passage, men who desired to make a living out of the country, and who desired the patronage of the Dominion Government might hold different views, but he had nothing to do with their opinions,—the duty of each member is to protect the rights and interests of those who sent him to the Assembly—the men who had toiled in the country and improved it by their industry. When it was said that we were tied hand and foot, the question arose in his mind "should we lie helplessly

on our backs, should we not ask some friend to cut our bonds asunder?" Nova Scotia had a friend not very far off, looking at her position and ready to assist in cutting her bonds. So far from the country having occasion to despond or to apprehend that it would be forced to remain in Confederation, there was reason to believe that if the result of the efforts which were being put forth, would be success. The determination of the people was to organize themselves into an anti-Confederate league, which would extend its branches gradually into New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, the United States, and England, and the mother country would feel this organization to be a thorn in her side, if she did not grant repeal. He might for this language be called a traitor, but if the hour of trial should come, he should like to test the loyalty and patriotism of his accusers, and he would not suffer by the comparison. The Confederates of the country were the only traitors, if we had any worthy of the name. After what he had said, he thought he had shown the injury that had been done to Nova Scotia by the forcible deprivation of her rights; and such being the case, no Nova Scotian possessing a spark of British spirit, would rest satisfied, until the country was freed from its present position.

Mr. DICKEY said that the report of the committee on Public Accounts, had been laid on the table at so late a day that members had not had an opportunity to give it a close examination. Many of the items are difficult to understand, owing to the Dominion and Local accounts running into each other. He would, therefore, take up the report and make a few observations upon it. In the first place, it appeared by the Receiver General's account, that the expenditure for the nine months ending 30th June, 1867, was \$332, 90, and this was principally for the ordinary expenses of the country, only \$34,700 being chargeable to public buildings. The railroads were not included as they were charged to a separate fund. A large amount of extravagance, of which the public should be informed, had prevailed during these nine months. Time would not permit this matter to be gone into fully, but he would refer to a few items, to show how much might be said. He would first refer to the printing accounts. When the Provincial Secretary had estimated \$8000 for public printing, he (Mr. Dickie) had asked whether that would be sufficient, and his reason for doing so, was that in the twelve months which preceded Confederation, and principally in the nine months, the printing had cost \$35,000 to \$40,000, of which over \$25,000 fell to the share of the Queen's printer. And although he knew it was a dangerous business to meddle with the fourth estate—yet it would be unjust to withhold the facts from the public. The account for printing for the Militia Department, for the nine months, was \$2338, of which the Queen's printer got \$1857.20; that of the Education Department for the year to the Queen's printer was \$2040; that of the same office for the Mines Department, was \$631. The Queen's printer also got \$1150 for printing the report of the Board of Statistics,—and here he would observe that the Secretary of the Board had charged \$100 extra for making his report. There seemed to have been in October, 1866, a

general in-
of depart-
Provincial
ter, the Fi-
General \$
ston \$50
services:
services:
\$1000.
his salary
year, and
had also
penses.
\$30,000
Knight,
The exp-
travagan-
session o-
of which
umbrella
25 paper
French
ending;
printing
for which
official
six box
\$49.50.
been p-
Campb-
of a gu-
or two
ficate
pauper
by a pl-
Comm-
To vis-
24,
5, 7
• 26,
Consu-
Not
There-
No
Medic-

Th
mode
not c
to la-
coun-
exce-
good
"Ap-
deal-
the
into
this
stat-
the
wor-
the
Jun-
me-
ed
fol-
Su-
An-
G-
N-