not trouble the House with a repetition of the same arguments. The very preamble of the bill now under consideration showed the doubts and uncertainty with which the Government were impressed in seeking to deal with this matter. He was of opinion that the Royal warrant, with instructions that the new seals should be used, and requiring and commanding the return of the old seals, was not merely directory, but that it abolished the old seal from the time it was delivered to the Lieutenant Governor in 1869, and the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, by a majority of the four senior judges, had declared the old seal illegal. Until that decision was reversed, this Government should have hesitated before interfering in the way now proposed. The Court of Appeal should have first heard the matter; or the decision of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia should have been sent to the Home Government, for the consideration of the Law Officers. But an illegal Government and Legislature in Nova Scotia were passing an illegal act to confirm, ratify, and make valid their illegal legislation, and that ,after the decision of the judges that the old seal was invalid, and after the Attorney General of that province, in reply to the leader of the Opposition, had stated that if the old seal was invalid, the present Parliament was invalid, and a local act would be invalid. The House was asked to pass a government bill in this matter, in which the Government had declared it had no power to interfere. The Government of Nova Scotia, since 1869, had persistently violated the law and the Queen's warrant and instructions, and so long as there were other means, and a simpler and more efficacious remedy, this Parliament should not embark in this doubtful legislation. The proper course would be for the Local Government to apply the only remedy that was free from doubt—a new writ for a general election, under the only valid Great Seal of Nova Scotia—and then a legal Parliament, thus called, could make valid all the illegal acts made and done since 1869. However, having now expressed his views, he would act in concert with his honorable friends from Nova Scotia, and let the Government take the responsibility of its present inconsistent action.

Hon. Mr. POWER thought the opinions of the Law Officers of the Crown on this matter were not of such trifling importance as some honorable gentlemen seemed to think. Their suggestion as to the best method of remedying the difficulty might not be sound, but the question on which they expressed an opinion was whether the warrant in connection with the new seal was simply directory or an imperative command. On that point, anything that happened after the issuing of the warrant could not have had much bearing. The answer of the Law Officers of the Crown was that the warrant was not directory. A majority of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, by an arbitrary dictum rather than otherwise, declared that the warrant was an imperative command. A circumstance which tended to show the warrant was not imperative was the fact, that while the British North America Act provided that the seals of Ontario and Quebec should be the same as the old seals of Upper and Lower Canada besore the Union, the Queen's warrant, evidently in utter ignorance of that section, gave those two provinces power to select their own seals. The measure before the House was intended to complete a chain of legislation. The Legislature of Nova Scotia had passed a measure, and adopted an address to Her Majesty for the passage of an Imperial act similar to this, and it was believed this legislation, if secured, would make matters right.

Hon. Mr. MILLER said it was extraordinary, if the main question was settled by the Law Officers of the Crown the warrant was only directory, that it was necessary now to get legislation here, in the Legislature of Nova Scotia, and in the Imperial Parliament.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is parodoxical, I must confess.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said, with all due deference to the powers that be, this bill was introduced in too great a hurry, and he thought it would have been much better if the decision of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia had been tested in a higher court before such legislation was attempted. The honorable Senator from Halifax seemed to think the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown was of more value than the judgement of the Supreme Court of his native Province.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said that was the effect of the honorable gentleman's words The Law Officers of the Crown might be two of the ablest men in England, and for the sake of argument he would admit the judges of the Supreme Court might not be as great lawyers, but there would be this difference—the former expressed merely an opinion; the latter rendered a judgment, which must be obeyed until it was set aside by a higher court or by act of a legislature which had jurisdiction in the matter. The easiest solution of the difficulty would have been to dissolve the House and elect a legislature in a legal manner. It seemed