

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—He was not a supporter of the Government.

Mr. BRECKEN.—He attended the caucus at the formation, for a trepanning operation upon him was threatened by a certain hon. member during one of these meetings. He would congratulate the Government upon their acquisition. The Conservatives had had him for four or five years, and he never bounced true, and now he was repudiated by the Liberals. The Government were acting strangely with a Bill coming, as this one did, from His Excellency. The hon. Leader of the Government, a few days since, characterized the militia training as "tom-foolery," and he this morning supported the Bill before the Committee, which was to be enacted for the purpose of compelling the people to play the tom-fool, and very lately voted £2500 to keep up the foolery. The Leader of the Opposition might be twitted for being so strong a unionist, but he was not working so effectually in the cause as was the present disgraceful Government. The most departmental officer in the House was the doorkeeper, and the Bill had better be handed over to him. When His Excellency enquired what had become of the Bill, the thing called a Government would be responsible. The hon. Leader would have to answer, "I opposed the Bill because it was intended to patch up tom-foolery." The hon. member for Tryon would say that it was in his opinion "a political dodge to drive us into Confederation," while the hon. member for Belfast will give as the reason for his opposition that it took men from their business and was a useless expense to the country.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—It was useless for the Opposition to find fault, because this Bill was not made a Government measure, when they, while in power, allowed the question of Confederation to remain an open one. The Opposition need not twit the Government with being divided, when we had seen one of their own members put out of the Executive. He did not desire either the sympathy or assistance of the Opposition in the manner in which they were giving it.

After a lengthy discussion the motion that the Speaker take the chair was lost on a division of 16 to 3.

The clause which had been read was then struck out, and several following ones agreed to, when the committee rose and reported progress.

On motion of **Hon. Mr. HOWLAN**, seconded by Dr. Jenkins, it was resolved that the Hon. Mr. Howlan, Mr. Owen, and Dr. Jenkins be a committee to report on the contingent accounts of the House for the present session, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, May 16.

Mr. REILLY begged leave to call the attention of the House to a statement in the summary of proceedings of Tuesday last calculated to create a false impression upon the public mind. The Reporter, after alluding to Collier's History of England, and Grace's Outlines of History, stated as follows: "Fur-

ther remarks from several hon. members were then made, to the effect that it was highly necessary to exclude from all public schools and institutions of learning all books of objectionable character, and *not on the list of books sanctioned and recommended by the Board of Education.*" Now he wished it to be distinctly understood that the sectarian book to which he had directed the attention of the House a few days ago, was one of the Nelson series of school books, "sanctioned and recommended by the Board of Education" as worthy of superseding in all public schools the Irish National Series, so long in use in this colony.

On motion of **Dr. JENKINS**, the Bill intituled "An Act for the incorporation of a Flax Company in Prince Edward Island," was read a third time and passed.

On motion of **Dr. JENKINS**, seconded by Mr. Owen, a committee consisting of Dr. Jenkins, Mr. Owen and Mr. Bell, were appointed to prepare an address to His Excellency, thanking him for his various communications and messages to the House during the present session.

Militia Bill.

House again in committee on Militia Bill.

Dr. JENKINS submitted a resolution which was to the effect that a man who had to serve in the militia might be allowed to find a substitute. He thought that the resolution contained a principle which would work well. It would be a great loss to the country to call every man out; many men would not take ten, or even fifteen dollars, for their day; and, moreover, there were many men who would not go to drill cheerfully, while substitutes would. He considered it better, therefore, to allow men to choose others to act for them—men who had a taste for these duties. He thought that it would be a source of strength to the militia. A large number of men were sometimes called out, who had no officers to drill them, and they, of course, could attain no efficiency in the military art. If he thought this resolution would have the effect of weakening the force, he would not have moved it; but he believed that the contrary would be the case.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION said the principle laid down in the amendment was a new and important one, and would require more attention than could now be given to it. At some future time the system might be carried out. He thought the ideas of the hon. member were good; but this was not the proper time to introduce them. Some hon. members had gone home, and it would be unfair to them to bring forward new matter now.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The principle, no doubt, was good, but it involved a question entirely new, and would require the Bill to be amended all through. He agreed with the hon. and learned member, the Leader of the Opposition, that as some hon. members had left, and as there was no notice of the resolution, it would be better not to press its consideration upon the House just now.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT thought that it would not do to call out the militia for a longer period than six days' drill. To work out the idea of the hon. member for Charlottetown, it would