

vince had enjoyed the advantages of having a separate Legislature within its limits from the first establishment of its Representative form of Government, down to the time of the Union, that after the Union it would be an act of common justice only for the Representative of the Sovereign to convene Parliament alternately at *Toronto* in *Upper Canada*, and at *Quebec* in *Lower Canada*; but the Legislature, to whom the subject was submitted, thought otherwise, and advised *Montreal* as the place to be selected, which advice was received and acted on: That within a very short period of time, however, this House has seen the Building in *Montreal* occupied by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, rented and fitted up as it was at a great expense to the country, wilfully burnt before their eyes, and the Libraries belonging to the respective Houses, and their records and proceedings, consumed with it:

That such then being the state of the case, and with the view of removing every obstacle that may have a tendency to hinder, or in any way interfere with the well-working of the Union, this House most respectfully begs leave to recommend to His Excellency to adopt the suggestion referred to,—that after the present Session, His Excellency will be pleased to convene the Parliament alternately at *Toronto* and *Quebec*, during periods not exceeding four years at each place; the first sitting, under this arrangement, to be held at such of the two places mentioned as His Excellency, in his discretion, may deem most advisable for the general good: That the plan here submitted is not without precedents in other countries, and that it can now more easily than at any antecedent period be carried out, inasmuch as all former records and proceedings in Parliament have been destroyed:

That each branch of the Legislature will now have to commence anew; and with a view to alternate sittings as herein recommended, their records and proceedings ought henceforward to be made out in duplicate, so that one copy may be deposited in the vaults of the Parliament House at *Toronto*, and the other within the walls of the Citadel of *Quebec*, where they will be secure from the ravages of fire, and from the attacks of external and internal foes:

That the Parliament Buildings at each of the Cities of *Toronto* and *Quebec*, are the property of the Province; that they are commodious and comfortable, and can be made ready for the reception of the Legislature at comparatively small expense: That under this arrangement, the Members of the Legislature will have a better opportunity of ascertaining and understanding, by personal observation, the condition, the wants, and the wishes of the whole people, instead of being confined, as they now necessarily are, in their knowledge of public affairs, to the narrow limits of their respective sections of the Province;

Mr. *Lyon* moved in amendment to the Question, seconded by Mr. *Sherwood*, of *Brockville*, That all the words after "representing to His Excellency" be left out, and the words "That the recent destruction of the Parliament Buildings in *Montreal*, on the night of the 25th April last, by a lawless mob, and the total loss of the valuable Libraries of both Houses of Parliament, and of the Records of the Province therewith, will impose upon the Provincial Government the necessity of constructing new Houses of Parliament, and providing new accommodation for the Provincial Legislature:

"That in order to avoid a recurrence of so great a public calamity, and to preserve from destruction, by similar outrages, the Records of public proceedings and of the various interests of the inhabitants of this Province, as well as the Public Libraries which may hereafter be provided, it is advisable to establish the Seat of Government at some place less liable than *Montreal* to sudden bursts of po-

pular violence, and more likely to be subject to the influence and control of the civil authorities:

"That with the experience of so recent an example of disregard for public interests evinced by the populace of *Montreal*, it would be impolitic to expend more of the money of the people of *Canada* in either the erection or fitting up of Buildings in *Montreal* suitable for the purposes of Legislation or of the Government:

"That the Seat of Government should be placed at some point removed from the frontier, whereby it would be secure from the casualties consequent upon an invasion by a foreign foe, and whereby the settlement of large tracts of the valuable waste lands of the Crown would be induced, without detriment to the interests of the rest of the Province, thereby expanding and strengthening the country:

"That a large portion of the people of *Canada* deem it unjust to the western section of the Province that the Seat of Government should be located so far within *Lower Canada* as it now is; and that the people of *Lower Canada* would likewise consider it unreasonable to place the Seat of Government at a like distance from them within *Upper Canada*:

"That with a view of removing all such grounds of complaint, and of uniting the people of *Canada*, the Capital thereof ought to be located at some place more central for both sections of the Province, having due regard to population and territory, and situate, if possible, on or near the confines of both:

"That the situation of the Town of *Bytown* presents all those advantages already enumerated; situate at a reasonable distance from the frontier, fortified by nature as a strong military position, and capable of being rendered impregnable to a foreign enemy, and that it is located so literally upon the Boundary Line of *Upper* and *Lower Canada*, as to be the point where the two Provinces are in fact connected by means of a substantial Wire Bridge, called the "Union Suspension Bridge," and thus it is evident that there is no other point where the jealousies of the two Provinces respecting the site of the Seat of Government are so likely to be absorbed:

"That the said Town of *Bytown* is, moreover, accessible from all parts of *Canada* by means of the River *Ottawa* and the *Rideau* Canal, the entrance to which it commands; and by a comparatively small outlay, the said River might be made to communicate with *Lake Huron*, through *Lake Nipissing* and the *Georgian Bay*, thus opening up at once a vast territory of rich and fertile lands which at present lie comparatively unknown and altogether unimproved, and tending to develop the internal resources of the country, and to open new channels of commerce and industry, in the general benefits of which the whole United Province would participate:

"And, that in addition to the foregoing considerations, the Provincial Government is possessed of a large tract of land in the said Town, on which the Public Buildings could be erected; the Town itself is surrounded by scenery at once beautiful and grand, and the atmosphere is remarkable for its purity and healthy properties, all which induce this House to recommend His Excellency to establish the Seat of the Provincial Government at *Bytown*," added instead thereof;

And the Question being put on the Amendment; the House divided: and the names being called for, they were taken down, as follow:—

YEAS.

Messieurs *Bell*, *Burritt*, *Cameron* of *KENT*, *Crysler*, *Egan*, *Flint*, *Hall*, *Lyon*, *Macdonald* of *KING-*