

were called on to consent to the suspension of the rules of the House, in order to carry the Customs Bill, which it was said was highly important to be carried. They consented with the utmost good-will and expected to be treated fairly in return. They were treated unfairly, for they were denied the opportunity of protecting his Excellency from the outrage with which he had been treated. It was painful to reflect on what had taken place; but it was also to be deplored that the Governor-General should thus have made himself a party to a scheme to deceive the House and the country. Those who in other circumstances would have been entirely condemned, would now be somewhat excused on account of the suddenness of the blow with which they had been visited; for communities like individuals should have some allowance made for acts committed in hasty anger before they have time for cool reflection. This vote amounted to a vote of confidence, and doubtless the Administration with their present majority might carry it, if they pleased. But he thought that now when the country was engaged in civil war, it was not a time for carrying the triumph too far—it could hardly be thought necessary to keep up a law, an open issue on the surface of the body politic. He thought, too, that Ministers themselves must, by this time, be aware that his measure was calculated to disgust three-fourths of the people of Canada. It might be sustained in the House, but was not sustained by the country.

*Mr. Baldwin* disclaimed the idea that this was intended as a vote of confidence.

After some further conversation, which elicited nothing material,

*Mr. Galt* moved the following address in amendment:—"That this House have viewed with the most profound regret the disturbance of the public peace in the city of Montreal during the last three days, and which has resulted in the destruction of the parliamentary buildings, with the provincial archives and library, together with the destruction of much private property, and injury to the persons of Her Majesty's subjects. That this House considers it their first duty to tender to the Government their assurance, that nothing shall be wanting on their part to restore public tranquillity, and that they are ready to make provision for any measure thought necessary to protect life and property. That whilst the House are of opinion that the restoration of peace is the first object to be achieved, they consider that they should be wanting in their duty to their country if they did not express their opinion, that to the advice of the present Executive Government in recommending his Excellency to assent to the Rebellion Losses Bill, and to the manner in which that assent was given, is to be attributed the disturbances which have resulted so disastrously for the honour and prosperity of the province. That this House, fully recognising the constitutional principle that the Administration are to be held responsible for all acts of the Government, desire to express to his Excellency their sincere regret that his advisers should have taken that course which has caused insults to be offered to the Representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty in this province, as well as to this House, which are calculated to diminish the respect of the people for the constitution under which they live." The honourable member having read his proposed address, went on to remark that though he was as much as any man opposed to the Bill for paying the rebellion losses, he confessed that he would not wish that any Bill, after it had gone through all its stages in both Houses, should be rejected by the Representative of the Sovereign or by the Home Government. He thought it would be highly impolitic to take any steps that would induce the British Government to prevent the passing of such a Bill. We were not to cast the responsibility on the Home Government; nor on his Excellency; it must fall on the Ministry, for responsible government was now the law of the country, and must be adhered to through evil report and through good report. He thought that the Ministry, and they alone, were responsible for what had occurred; and believed the address would not express the sense of the House unless it expressed the regret which was felt at the insult which had been offered to his Excellency.

*Mr. Papineau* thought the effect of the present amendment would be to make the majority vote against its own course throughout the proceedings on this measure. To attempt to carry it, therefore, would not be to show any desire for that unanimity, which honourable gentlemen professed to desire. Political considerations of this kind ought not to be brought forward; if it were wished, for the common safety and from good feeling, to assure the Government that the House were willing to vote any necessary expenditure to restore order, anything else must awaken those animosities which were unfortunately so strongly marked. It was for the same reason that he blamed the main motion—it was produced by a desire of the Administration to obtain a vote of confidence, and was supported by persons who were disposed to cringe as meanly to Ministers as they would have done to Governors in former days. Ministers had shown that they possessed neither the energy nor the will necessary to carry out any measure in a consistent manner, for they were every minute changing their determination from what it had been a minute before. This had been shown in that very debate. First of all they came down and declared that they had nothing to ask of the House except a motion to adjourn; but the moment an address was moved by one of their friends, they could not resist the flattery, but supported it with all their might. If there were nothing else to excite alarm, this constant shuffling from one position to another, was the thing most calculated to throw anxiety into the mind of every honest man. The time must come when all these questions would come up; let them then be discussed. Let not honourable gentlemen on the other side ask from those on his side what they could not yield, nor desire them to condemn their own measures; and on the other hand the Government should not expect the Opposition to yield their opinions, for that would be equally unjust. Why should the House be called on to approve the conduct of the Governor-General? Was it not known that a large proportion of the population were now asking his recall; and had they not a right to do so, if they used only constitutional means? Why should there be any sacrifice of opinion, when all were agreed on the particular point which was of importance at the moment? On that one subject of preserving the peace of the