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SPEECH OF M. C. CAMERON, M.P.,
ON THE
DISALLOWANCE OF STREAMS' BILL.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

FRIDAY, 14th April, 1882.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). Mr. Speaker, those who, like yourself, are old enough to remember the party struggles, the party triumphs and the party defeats in the old Parliament of Canada, under a legislative union, the form of government that prevailed before Confederation, have a lively recollection of the circumstances and causes that led to these party conflicts in the early days of Canadian history. Old Upper Canada, whether right or wrong, I am not now going to discuss, always persistently and earnestly contended, that under the Union of the two Provinces, she never had fair play. We know that many questions of vital importance to the individual Province were constantly coming to the front of the political stage—questions of a purely local character that affected the Province only, and that the voice of a majority of representatives of the people from the Province affected by the proposed legislation was often overridden by the voice of the whole House. We know something now, historically at all events, of the long and gallant struggle to abolish the clergy reserves, to change the seigniorial tenure, to secure to each Province a fair share of local legislation suited to its wants and requirements, and a fair share of local self-government and public works. We know that such local questions were constantly cropping up. We know that on some occasions these questions were disposed of contrary to the voice of a majority of the representatives of the people from the Province affected. We know that great dissatisfaction and discontent prevailed as the result. We know the keen and bitter struggle that followed. We know that parties in the old Parliament of Canada were so evenly balanced that neither party could successfully carry on the Government of the country. We know that at one time, at all events, Governments were made and Governments were unmade by the vote of one