

Governor acknowledges that the members of the De Boucherville Cabinet have acted in good faith in the discharge of their duties.

“That his Excellency has allowed the measures submitted by his Government to this House and to the Legislative Council to be discussed and voted upon without order on his part to suspend them.

“That, whilst asserting their devotion to our gracious Sovereign and their respect towards his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of this Province, this House is of opinion: That the dismissal from office of the De Boucherville Cabinet having taken place without reason constitutes an imminent danger to the existence of responsible government in this Province, is an abuse of power in contempt of the majority of this House, whose confidence they possessed and still possess, and is a violation of the liberties and will of the people.

“And your petitioners will ever humbly pray.”

That on the same day the Honourable Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec adopted the following address to be presented to his Excellency the Governor-General, to the House of Commons, to the Senate, and to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, to wit:—

Exhibit No. 2.—“The humble address of the Honourable the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec respectfully sheweth:—

“That it appears from the explanations given by Hon. M. de Boucherville, and from official correspondence communicated to this House, that his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor acknowledges that the members of the De Boucherville Cabinet acted in good faith in the discharge of their duties.

“That his Excellency permitted the Bills submitted to this House and to the Legislative Assembly to be discussed and voted upon without any order on his part to suspend them.

“That whilst expressing its loyalty and devotion to our gracious Sovereign, and its respect for the Lieutenant-Governor of this Province, this House is of opinion that the dismissal from office of the De Boucherville Cabinet having taken place without sufficient cause constitutes an imminent danger to the maintenance of responsible government in this Province, is an abuse of power exercised in contempt of the majority of both Houses, (whose confidence they possessed and still possess), and a violation of the rights and will of the people.”

That the circumstances under which the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec adopted the above resolutions are contained in the ministerial explanations given to the Legislature on the 8th March 1878, of which the following is a copy extracted from the Votes and Proceedings of the 9th of the same month:—

Exhibit No. 3.—“M. De Boucherville had received permission from the Lieutenant-Governor to give explanations respecting his dismissal from office at the sitting on Monday, the 4th March instant. Between half-past 1 and 2 o'clock of the same day he received from his Excellency a notice not to give any explanations until the new Cabinet had been formed.

“This event having been announced, the late De Boucherville Government has the right, in virtue of the permission so obtained, to give its explanations to the House and to the country.

“It is my duty to announce to the House that the De Boucherville Government did not resign. A Government possessing the confidence of the great majority of the representative Assembly, and of almost the whole of the Legislative Council, has no right to resign if it has really at heart the interests of the country and a respect for its duty. This Government was dismissed from office by the Lieutenant-Governor. The facts which preceded and followed this event are entered in a journal kept from day to day and from hour to hour, under the dictation of the ex-Premier, and the following is an exact and faithful recital thereof:

“On the 26th February 1878, at about half-past 4 o'clock p.m., the Premier received from the Lieutenant-Governor, through his aide-de-camp, the following letter:—

“To the Hon. C. B. De Boucherville, Premier of the Province of Quebec.

Government House, Quebec,
February 25, 1878.

“The Lieutenant-Governor desires the Executive Council to prepare for his consideration a factum, including a copy of the following documents:—

“1. A copy of the Acts of the Dominion Parliament authorising the construction of