

sees proper, and by the vote which will be taken will be determined whether this house has confidence in the government or not. (Hear, hear.) The very fact of a measure of this popular nature being conceded shows that the government is sincere in its determination to meet the wishes of the people, and it only remains to be seen whether the people's representatives will sustain them in these liberal intentions. (Hear, hear, hear.)

Mr. VIGER said he was surprised to hear the hon and learned gentleman deny the right of that house to examine and compare the measure now proposed with that which was about to go into operation in Lower Canada, and to the provisions of which it professed to correspond. He tells us in as many words, it may be unjust in its operation, it may require amendment, but you cannot examine it because it is but just going into operation; and you must pass a measure exactly similar to it for this part of the Province before you ascertain how it is going to work! The hon gentleman has not been able to show a precedent for such a measure, and yet we are not to examine it! The proposition is monstrous. But the hon gentleman says, oh, it is the best law possible, and therefore we must adopt it without examination or consideration. It is an excellent law in all its provisions, and precisely conformable to the wishes of the people. I have, I confess, very strong doubts upon this point. I deny that the people desire the Governor to appoint the person who shall preside in these Councils, and that he shall parcel out the Province as he pleases, and that he shall appoint the place of meeting of these Councils. I am aware that in some instances very improper places have been selected in Lower Canada. In that part of the Province the people have never been consulted as to their wishes with regard to this law, and will the hon gentleman say that this is the principle which ought to be adopted in this United Legislature? I wish I could convey my feelings in the English language, I would impress upon this House the abhorrence which I myself entertain of such legislation.

Mr. BALDWIN said he had on a former occasion declared his approbation of the principle of the bill. He had been and still was in favor of it; but at the same time he was also in favor of its being placed upon such a footing as would be productive of substantial advantages, and produce satisfaction in the minds of the people with respect to its machinery. He was also in favor of another principle, namely, that the same measure of justice should be meted out to both Provinces. And if ever there was an occasion when a government professing to administer the affairs of the country according to the wishes of the people, should come forward and redeem their pledge, the present is that occasion. (Hear, hear.) I wish to call the attention of hon members to the circumstances under which this ordinance, which it is now proposed shall be referred to the committee, was passed. It was passed by the Special Council, a body which did not represent the people of Lower Canada, after the Imperial Parliament had passed an act uniting these Provinces, and after striking out from that act of union the clause relating to this subject, with the express view of referring its consideration to the representatives of the people. If ever there was a question, therefore, which should be left to the decision of the people it is this question. It is not necessary to our present purpose to enquire whether there were circumstances which required those in whose hands the power was placed to pass that ordinance. My own opinion is, it was inexpedient. But it was done, and unless this house have now

the power of examining that ordinance, and amending it if necessary, the people of Lower Canada must continue to be subjected to the operation of a law which they had no voice in passing. There may have been a necessity, or an imagined necessity—I am not willing to admit that it was a real necessity. The Union Bill was passed—the government had been strongly established—Lower Canada had been deprived of a large portion of her members—you gave to Lower Canada a law which was unasked for, and which was never consented to by the people of that Province—and you now come down to this house and tell us we are to pursue the same system; that this is the great measure of the session upon which the government rests its responsibility, and that you are determined to have the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill. (Hear, hear.) And you call this popular government, and it is in this manner that you expect to win your way to the hearts of the people.—(Hear, hear, hear.) And I would like to know what confidence the people of Lower Canada can have in that administration of which you form a part? There are none of them among you! (Hear, hear.) And yet you pretend to be strong in the confidence of the people of the Province. (Hear, hear, hear.) I say this is only another step in the course of that injustice towards Lower Canada which I have ever deprecated, and ever must deprecate. If I believed the people of Upper Canada desire to do them injustice, I would scorn to be their representative.—(Hear, hear.) It is in vain for you to tell us you desire that we should go on happily together, so long as you draw these distinctions. I for one will always set my face against it. The learned and hon gentleman says the ordinance should not be disturbed because it is going into operation. My hon and venerable friend from Richelieu has already shown the fallacy and absurdity of this argument. If it be inapplicable to the state of the country, the sooner it is remedied the better; the sooner will those learned and hon gentlemen be relieved from the disgrace attending the failure of a measure which they advocate. (Hear, hear.) But, says the hon and learned gentleman, it is just going into operation. Well, is this a reason the people should be saddled with a system which is badly adapted to the purposes for which it is intended? (Hear, hear.) This appears to me the worst and weakest of all reasons, and such a one as this house will not listen to for a moment. I am in favor of the main principles of municipal institutions, but I would have them placed upon such a footing as will prevent collision between the people and the head of the government, and I would also have both sections of the Province placed upon an equal footing. I would rather have a worse bill which should be precisely similar to that which our fellow subjects enjoy, than have a better bill which shall be different. (Hear, hear.) Upon these grounds I would make a last appeal to the hon. and learned member who brought the measure forward, to withdraw his opposition to the present motion and allow both measures to be considered together by the committee; not to attempt to impose upon either portion of the province a measure ill adapted to its wishes; and to drop now and forever all invidious distinctions. (Hear, hear.)

Colonel PRINCE said he had unfortunately not heard the whole of the hon. and learned gentleman's eloquent speech, as he had but just entered the house, but from his concluding remarks the hon. gentleman seemed apprehensive that a distinction was attempted to be made between the present measure and the ordinance now in force in

Lower Canada. He [Colonel Prince] had not been able to discover the difference, although he looked through both the ordinance and the bill, and he really thought it was only a chimera that existed in the brain of the hon. and learned gentleman. [Hear, hear.] But suppose them to be different, the question is, are we Upper Canadians to be deprived of the benefits of this salutary measure, merely on that account? He [Colonel Prince] hoped the bill would pass as it is; the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill. Let each be considered upon its separate merits, and if there be any thing oppressive in the operation of the law as regards Lower Canada, he [Col. Prince] would be one of the proudest to assist in amending it.

Mr. MOFFATT said it was unnecessary at the present moment to go into a discussion of the merits of either measure. The question to be determined was, whether there was anything unparliamentary in referring to the committee a law which is already in existence in the lower section of the province. [Hear.] He could see nothing unparliamentary in the course proposed, therefore he would support the motion.

Mr. JOHNSTON said he was opposed to the measure both in its principle and in its details; he was satisfied that an act of Parliament was not requisite to allow the people to tax themselves. [Hear, hear.]

Mr. QUESNEL said he had no objection to the motion as it did not pledge the house to any particular course. If the Upper Canadians desired the adoption of the bill as it stands, he [Mr. Quesnel] would offer no opposition to it; or if they desired to amend it, they should be at liberty to do so; but he would not be in favor of compelling them to adopt a measure precisely similar to that in Lower Canada, which might have the effect of rendering it inapplicable.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAMERON said, the hon. gentleman who had spoken last had, he thought, taken a very fair practical view of the question, and a very liberal view. The ordinance of Lower Canada had been passed it is true, by a body which had not the confidence of the people in the smallest degree, but that ordinance was now ready to be put into operation, the appointments had been made and the machinery perfected previous to the meeting of this Legislature. It was very improbable, therefore, that the same executive under whose direction that ordinance was framed would be willing to make any alteration in it, until it had been acted upon at least, and to bring up the consideration of that law at present, he believed would have the effect of endangering the passing of the bill. The hon. and learned gentleman from Hastings had denounced it as one of the acts of injustice which have been inflicted upon Lower Canada, but he had not pointed out in what way it would act so very injuriously. He hoped the success of this measure which is so justly eulogized for its liberality would not be allowed to be endangered by mixing up with it the consideration of the ordinance of Lower Canada. It might be a difficult matter to obtain from another executive of a less liberal character a measure so popular as the one now offered.

Sir ALLAN McNAB said it appeared exceedingly singular, if this measure were so very popular, that the Executive Government had not waited, particularly as the Union Bill had already been passed, until the people of Lower Canada had elected their representatives, and allowed the question to be submitted to the Legislature for their adoption. If this is so good a measure as the hon and learned gentleman would have us believe, why is he not willing to