

## DEBATE.

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Dr. MORRISON, seconded by Mr. GIBSON, moved that it be—

“*Resolved*—That the Report of the Select Committee to whom was referred the communications between His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the late Executive Council be now adopted, and that the Memorial to the House of Commons accompanying the same be also concurred in and adopted and signed by the Speaker, and transmitted by him to some member of the House of Commons, with the request of this House that he will present the same and support its prayer.”

DR. MORRISON said that a more exciting and important topic had never come before that House. The whole Province was now agitated by it. In the remarks he was about to make, he should endeavour to confine himself to the main point. The question was, whether or not the advantages of the British Constitution were to be enjoyed by the Province? There were various opinions entertained in the country as to what constituted good government. The House, at the commencement of the Session, had given its opinion in favour of elective institutions; and expressions of public opinion had since been given by the country that this was necessary to preserve the union with the mother country. The important question to be discussed that day was not urged forward by the House, but had been forced upon it by the head of the administration entering into the discussion of the preliminaries of government; and upon him would rest the blame if it should lead to the further inquiry whether the people or the king should elect the governor. The question before the House might be narrowed into this principle: If there is an Executive Council, what duties have the people a right to expect from it? One thing was clear, there had been an Executive Council from the earliest period. But this was strangely denied by the present Lieutenant Governor; although, if he had searched the records of the Province, he would have found that it had existed coëval with the government itself. [Here the hon. gentleman read at some length from the works of Mr. Gouriay.] It would be worth while also to read the whole account of Governor Simcoe's administration. But he would not rest this question upon the bare authority of Governor Simcoe, but would refer to the last clause of the Constitutional Act, and to the King's Instructions, in which an Executive Council was plainly represented as an essential appendage to the Government. But he would contend further, that, laying aside all arguments deducible from law, established usage, and general admission, the very principles of colonial government required