

ment. Our financial position now was certainly not less strong than it was then. Objection was made that the Government would not have to submit the contracts to Parliament. But he would remind hon. gentlemen that the late Government never submitted its contracts to Parliament, and this Government submitted its contracts until the present time, and now, when, for a specific reason, they desired to depart from that custom, he thought hon. gentlemen ought not to complain. We were bound to show British Columbia good faith, not in carrying out the original proposition, which was out of the question, but the present one submitted in its place. He admitted the burden was a heavy one for us to bear, but the stipulations of the treaty must be fulfilled. It was impossible for the Government to submit the contract before next year; therefore, if Parliament insisted upon the contract being submitted, the work could not be gone on with by the time agreed upon.

HON. MR. MILLER wished to state briefly the reason why he would support the bill. He was one of those who had voted for the admission of British Columbia into the Confederation, on the terms of the construction of a Pacific railway. He (Mr. Miller) would not now discuss the wisdom or unwisdom of the terms of admission granted to the Western Province, but he did not admit that the Pacific Railway was a purely British Columbian affair. It was a national undertaking in which the whole Dominion, from Cape Breton to Vancouver Island, was deeply concerned. The greater portion of the whole line was necessary to the carrying out of their colonization policy in the great North-West Territory. But it was true British Columbia had the greatest interest in the Pacific Railway, which they found they were now unable to construct according to the terms of Union with that Province, and therefore had a just ground of complaint against the Dominion. The line of railway proposed by the bill was in satisfaction of the breach of the original terms, and had been recommended by the Imperial Government. Was it wise in this House to reject the compromise made under such circumstances? He did not think it would

be wise or policy to do so. As one of those who had supported the original terms made with British Columbia, he felt bound to support this bill, which was a compensation for the non-fulfillment of those terms. The rejection of the bill would neither improve their relations with that Province or the Imperial Government, and he therefore hoped the measure would become law. He (Mr. Millard) at any rate, would not take the responsibility of voting against it, whatever he might feel with regard to the burden the work would impose on the country.

After remarks by HON. MESSRS. VIDAL, HOWLAN and SCOTT, Hon. Mr. Aikins' amendment, giving the bill the six months' hoist, was put to vote and carried by 23 to 21, as follows:—

CONTENTS — The Honorable Messieurs Aikins, Alexander, Allan, Armand, Bellerose, Benson, Campbell, Chapais, Chinic, Dever, Dickey, Dumouchel, Flint, Hamilton (Inkerman), Hamilton (Kingston), McClelan, Macpherson, Penny, Read, Ryan, Seymour, Trudel, Vida!—23.

NON-CONTENTS — The Honorable Messieurs Baillargeon, Brown, Bureau, Carrall, Chaffers, Christie (Speaker), Cormier, Cornwall, Haythorne, Howlan, Leonard, Letellier de St. Just, Macdonald, Miller, Montgomery, Muirhead, Pâquet, Scott, Simpson, Skead, Wark—21.

The House adjourned at twelve o'clock, p. m.

Wednesday, April 7, 1875.

The House met at eleven o'clock.

INCREASE OF MINISTERS.

HON. MR. READ gave notice that he would, at the next sitting, ask if the Government intended increasing the number of Ministers in this House.

HON. MR. LETELLIER said he could answer on the spot—the Government did not so intend.

CENSUS RETURNS.

HON. MR. RYAN asked—How soon were we likely to have the forthcoming volume of the census?

HON. MR. LETELLIER—The third will issue almost immediately, and the fourth was partly in press.