

however, that the committee who are charged with representing the interests of Nova Scotia at this exhibition, will not send across the water any specimens of our Legislation, for if they did they would reflect anything but credit upon us. The hon. Attorney General thought proper to say that if this committee had been constituted differently, and the expenses of these who came from the country had been paid out of the public funds, I would have objected as I did in another case. I will answer him by saying that if the law authorized such an expenditure I should not have objected, but, if it did not, I most certainly would have done so. I presume he alluded to my remarks of a previous day, in reference to the militia convention (for I will not call it a *court*) which recently sat in this city. I understand that over £400 has been paid out of the public treasury for the expenses of the members of that convention. If that is the case I do not hesitate to tell the Attorney General that that sum has been paid in violation of the law.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said: It will be quite time enough to raise that question when it comes up legitimately for discussion; but, at present, I consider it entirely aside from the subject before the House. When it does come up, the government will be fully prepared to meet it. I must certainly have misapprehended the remarks of the hon. member for Richmond, (Mr. Miller,) for I thought the whole scope of his remarks went to find fault with the construction of this Committee, and that was the reason why I occupied the time of the House, in referring to the qualification of the gentlemen who were upon it. I am much relieved by the observations of that hon. gentleman, that he will make no objection to the granting of the money.

Mr. MILLER—I repeat, my objection was not to the individuals upon the Committee, but to the exclusive character it presented, as representing Halifax alone.

Hon. PROV. SECY.—I am happy to have the endorsement of the hon. gentleman, upon the remarks I made as to the personal qualifications of the committee; and it is a still greater consolation to know that he does not intend to oppose the grant of money the government have pledged. It seems, then, that the objection of the hon. gentleman is narrowed down to this point, that the majority of the Committee have the misfortune to reside in the city of Halifax. In dealing with this subject, I may remark, that I deemed it my duty to go more minutely into the question, than I would have done, had I been personally responsible for the construction of this Committee, because the gentleman who called it into existence had not the same means of being acquainted with the character and qualifications of those who composed it. Now, upon taking up this list, what do we find? That no less than seven of this small Committee do not reside in Halifax at all.

Mr. MILLER—name them.

Hon. PROV. SEC.—Hon. Mr. Howe, Mr. Archibald, Mr. Downs, Prof. How, Prof. Lawson, Mr. Livesey, Rev. Dr. Forrester, and I find that there is still another, Prof. Honeyman, so there are really eight living outside of the unfortunate city of Halifax. But what more do I find—and I invite the particular attention of the member for Richmond, who seems to consider it such a great crime to re-

side in the city of Halifax, to the fact that I hold in my hand a list of the names of a commission formed by the late Government under the deliberate sanction of the Home—not as in this instance to expend the comparatively small sum of £500 upon a hastily extemporized Exhibition—but charged with the important functions of seeing that Nova Scotia was properly represented at the Exhibition of all Nations in 1861—and I must remind the honourable gentleman that that list received his tacit approval, inasmuch as he allowed the money which they had expended to pass unchallenged. Now, of whom do we find that list to be composed? The first name is that of A. W. McKinlay, a resident of Halifax; the second, hon. A. G. Archibald, then Attorney General, and a resident of Halifax; the next, J. H. Anderson, a resident of Halifax; the fourth, Mr. Wier, a resident of Halifax;—then we have Mr. Jones, P. C. Hill, John Tobin, Charles Tupper, John Esson, Wm. Cunard, John Bell, James Thompson, S. Caldwell, A. M. Uniacke, R. G. Fraser, and John Campbell,—the whole eighteen, residents of the city of Halifax.

Dr. HAMILTON—Was that just.

Hon. PROV. SEC.—I presume the manner in which they discharged their duties must have given satisfaction to the country generally, as no member has ever questioned it. I shall not occupy the time of the house further than by remarking, that when the gentleman who formed this committee was aware of the fact that the construction of the former board, composed entirely of the citizens of Halifax, had met with the approval of the legislature, it was but natural for him to suppose that in the formation of this small committee no objection would be taken to the majority being composed of those residing in the city.

Mr. MILLER said that no better illustration of the species of argument used by the hon. Prov. Sec. when he found himself in a dilemma, was needed, than the speech he had just delivered. When he finds that he could not justify himself in any other way, he invariably resorted to the excuse that somebody else had done so before him. And so the other day when charged by the member for South Colchester with delay in bringing forward the public business, he sought to shield himself with the excuse that previous governments had been guilty of the same thing. The hon. gentleman should know, however, that that sort of argument would not satisfy the country—even when given with double the energy and eloquence of the Provincial Secretary. The house would appreciate the ingenuousness of the hon. Prov. Sec. in reading over the list of names, and putting them all down as residents of Halifax, without taking into consideration the fact that some of them represented country constituencies. Of a like piece is his attempt to take me to task, and hold me responsible for the complexion of a committee formed long before I had a seat in the house. I am inclined to think that the accounts had been passed also before I came to this house, so that I had not the opportunity, if I had had the wish, to attack them. If the hon. gentleman cannot bring forward any better arguments than these to support his position, he had better not advance any at all.—The objections that I have made to this committee have been advanced in no hostile spirit