

vice on the subject, and to bring it to a termination. I can but add, that, if removing the preamble to this resolution will enable the House to come to the same unanimous conclusion they did last year, I will cheerfully consent to the proposition made by my hon. friend opposite.

Mr. ANNAND.—I am glad the Prov. Secy. has made the announcement he has, that he will withdraw the preamble. This portion of the resolution was distasteful to many gentlemen, and prevented them assuming the same position they did last year. It is apparent that the proposed Union with New Brunswick cannot possibly be consummated—a union I heartily desire—and it would, be therefore, useless at the present stage of the session, to proceed any further with the matter.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I have come to the conclusion that I will not have the pleasure of addressing the House, for the reasons given by the gentlemen who have spoken. There is now a considerable amount of business that must be transacted without delay. I have no hesitation in saying that if the course now suggested is not adopted, the House must be delayed at least a fortnight longer. I have reluctantly yielded to the suggestion to close the debate. I have listened with a great deal of attention, to the gentlemen who have spoken on this subject, and I certainly must say, that I had hoped to have been able to reply to their observations. I have not yet had an opportunity of fully expressing my opinions as one of the delegates. I did not consider that it was necessary for me at the outset of this debate to address the House, but allowed gentlemen to precede me. I must congratulate gentlemen in the Opposition on this question, that they have had an opportunity of fully explaining their views, and placing them before the country to an extent that the friends of Confederation have not. Looking, however, at the time that must be occupied if the debate is continued, and the delay of public business that must result, I have waived my own feelings in the matter.

Mr. TOBIN.—Whilst I am not going to oppose the resolution, I must express my conviction that a Union of the Maritime Provinces cannot bring with it any positive advantages. There is very little trade and business between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. We can never gain nationality by means of such a Union. I am quite sure, too, that New Brunswick has no desire whatever to unite with us. I firmly believe, if we cannot be united to a large country like Canada, it is better for us to remain as we are. I expressed the same opinions last year, and I see no reasons now for changing them.

Mr. S. McDONNELL.—I must confess that I vote for the resolution with no little reluctance. That the time of the House would be wasted in the discussion of this question, I do not believe. A question that has engaged the attention of so many prominent public men in these Provinces, and has agitated the public mind to so large an extent, is surely worth a few day's debate. The country has expected that every man would express his

opinion on the subject. In view, however, of the desire of the House to bring the discussion to a close, and of the fact that the Prov. Secy. has consented to withdraw the preamble, I shall agree to allow the resolution to pass without making any further observations.

Mr. MILLER.—I feel just as reluctant as other gentlemen, to allow the question to pass without expressing my views, especially after the position which I occupied last year, and have since taken in reference to it. However, I heartily concur with gentlemen as to the necessity of saving the public time. Besides the debate would not really elicit much new information, for nearly all the facts connected with it have already been put before the country. I don't desire to divide the House on the resolution, but I wish it to be understood distinctly that I am not at all committed to it. I entertain views similar to those expressed by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Tobin,) respecting a Union of the Maritime Provinces. If I have any desire for a Union it is for the larger one. The opinions I held last year I hold now. My opposition has not been to the Union in the abstract, but to the terms on which it was secured. I defy any one to find a passage in anything I have said since last session, which proves that I am opposed to a Union on fair and equitable terms.

Hon. FIN. SEC.—Any one must see that that if this debate were continued, we must be here a good many days longer. I take it for granted that every gentleman in this House will feel that he should give his constituents the benefit of the views he entertains, and define the position which he occupies, but that he can do equally as well when he visits his country.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL.—As I have offered no remarks upon the question during the debate which has ensued, I now rise to make a speech. It will be a very short one; it is that the question be now put.

The resolution then passed as amended without a division.

[The remaining days, till the prorogation, were taken up with merely routine business, summaries of which have already appeared in the city papers.—Reporter.]

TUESDAY, May 2.

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The session of the Provincial Parliament was prorogued this afternoon at half-past four o'clock, by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with all the usual formalities. After the usual preliminaries, His Excellency Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell closed the session with the following

Speech:

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislature Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. I am happy that the state of the public business enables me to release you from further attendance on your legislative duties

2. It gives me much pleasure, in closing the second session of the twenty-third General Assembly of the Provincial Parliament, to be able to congratulate you on the many useful

and important measures which your labours have matured.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

3. I have to thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the public services.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

4. The action taken by New Brunswick early in the session, apparently placed a decision on the question of a general Confederation of British North America, to which at the opening of the session I had invited your attention, under the disadvantage of leading to no immediate practical result. I am confident that otherwise you would have felt it your duty to have fully discussed the most important and interesting question, with an earnest desire to meet the views of Her Majesty's Government, in every way compatible with the wishes and interests of this Province.

5. Under the impression, therefore, that the above circumstances, over which you could have exercised no control, had for a time precluded any useful consideration of the larger question, you have meantime reverted to the project of a Union of the Maritime Provinces, and reiterated your opinion of last session as to the expediency of appointing Representatives of this Province to confer thereon. I

shall have much pleasure in transmitting that resolution to the Lieut. Governors of the adjacent Provinces.

6. I most sincerely hope that the important principle of Free Schools, based on a moderate county assessment, may realize your expectations, by obtaining the support of all classes of the people, and effecting the most valuable results in the general diffusion of education.

7. The largely increased provision for the local defence of the country conclusively proves the importance which, as Representatives of a loyal people, you attach to British connection, and the determination of this Province to assume a fair share of the burdens of protecting her existing institutions.

8. The increased provision made for extension of Railway communication to the borders of New Brunswick and Annapolis will, I hope, ensure those undertakings being effectively prosecuted at an early day, with the happiest results to the trade and general prosperity of the Provinces.

9. I am gratified to learn that an Act has been passed providing for the completion of the St. Peter's Canal, and that provision has been made for the extension of the Hospital of the Insane.

10. With heartfelt thankfulness for the continued peace and prosperity which, under Providence, we have so long enjoyed, and with sincere prayers for the continuance of these blessings, I now declare this Session closed.