

if the majority is in the negative, the "nays" carry it. Can we have a plebiscite under such circumstances? I take Hants, Kings, Queens, Shelburne, and Victoria, the united population of which amounts to 63,000 having 16 representatives. Now, on the other hand, take Cumberland, Inverness, Annapolis, Lunenburg and Cape Breton, having unitedly a population of 97,500 and only 14 members. How, under such a system of representation, can we expect to get a fair verdict from the people? It takes two men in Inverness to be equal to one man in Shelburne. Pictou has 35,000 people, and four members—or the same number that Kings has with half the population. How, then, could any house returned after an election fairly and unmistakably represent the wishes of the people? I recollect when there was a majority of two in favor of the Government in this House—this was in the first session of the house elected in 1859—and the Provincial Secretary proved to his own satisfaction that he had a majority of 15,000 in the Province. Suppose we should come back here with small majority on one side or the other, yet it might be that the counties having the least votes would carry the day. The party of Union might actually have the majority of people on their side, and yet be out-voted in this house under our system of representation. I say to the people of the county that I represent—I voted for the general principle of assessment for schools on the ground that it would be found in time a great boon to the country. I did so in the face of a strong popular feeling against the measure, and yet tomorrow I could go back to the people and take a two-thirds majority on that question. But even were it otherwise, I would have been quite satisfied with the knowledge that I had been defeated on a great general principle which must prove in time of great advantage to the country. On the present question I am influenced by the same feelings. A majority of the people may be opposed to the measure, but I know nevertheless that the time is not far distant when they will warmly thank me for having supported it.

We are told that this is an arbitrary exercise of power—that it is going to prevent us going into a better place after we die. May we venture to hope that the good we did in carrying the education measure will be accepted as a set-off to the wickedness we are about to commit?

There are some members in this house who will remember when Cape Breton was an independent province—when it had a government of its own and managed its own affairs. The British House of Commons did not ask the opinion of the people of Cape Breton, or even of Nova Scotia, on the subject, but by an act of a few lines annexed the island to Nova Scotia, with only two members. The union was effected, and for a long while you could find hardly a dozen men in the whole island who did not express themselves against the annexation. There was an old gentleman who was Attorney General of Cape Breton previous to the Union, and he spent all his time and energies in endeavouring to bring about a separation, until finally he found himself all alone. When he died, a few years ago, he was the last man who could say that the union was an injury to the island. Cape Breton went in-

to the union with only two members, but in the course of time the number increased, and now she has nine representatives in a house of fifty-five. If Cape Breton gets justice it is because we are bound to have it—because there is no government in this country that would dare to ignore the claims of that island for a single year. I would like to see the government that would do gross injustice to Cape Breton.

Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.—You would not like to see it.

Mr. BLANCHARD.—I would have liked to see the Provincial Secretary try it three years ago—how soon my hon friend from Cape Breton and the other members would have thrown over the government.

Mr. BOURNOUT.—And so I would.

Mr. BLANCHARD.—And how gladly would I have assisted him. So it will be at Ottawa. No Government can dare resist the claims of this Province whilst our members are true to themselves and the interests they represent.

Predictions are the order of the day. We have the hon member from East Halifax in one breath say that this country—that is to say the Confederacy—is to be a monarchy exceedingly like Mexico. Another prediction, in the next breath, from the same source, is that we are to have a President and be a republic. These two predictions do not agree with each other. Again he says that he will spend the remainder of his days in endeavouring to destroy this Confederation. I make no pretensions to being a prophet, or the son of a prophet, but I venture to predict that ere many years pass by he will be found very like old Gibbons, of Cape Breton, solitary and alone, and grey in harness, the only surviving exponent of anti-union principles. He will be found for the remainder of his days fretting and frowning against a union which has been carried in spite of all his efforts, and has proved to be the greatest blessing ever conferred upon this country.

Speech of Hon. Prov. Secretary.

Dr. TUPPER then rose and said:—I undertook to show the House that every possible means had been taken to familiarize the country with the question under discussion, and to ascertain as far as possible the sentiments of the people, and in making that statement I was met by the rejoinder from the hon. member from East Halifax, that although I had discussed in general terms the principle of union in the adjoining Province, and in various places in this Province, I had not proposed such a plan of union as that devised at Quebec. If the hon. member would refer to the *New Brunswick* newspaper, in which my address was fully reported, and to the same address which was delivered by invitation in different portions of this Province, he would find that I propounded just such a scheme of union as was arranged at Quebec and in Westminster Palace Hotel. The hon. member then challenged me to produce one title of evidence that Mr. Howe had ever committed himself to the question of Confederation. I do not intend to wander over the two volumes containing the name of the hon. member for East Halifax on the title page, and on almost every