

rapidly as that of Maine, and look with disfavor upon a scheme which is going to increase the prosperity of that province as well as of all British America. They see that this scheme will give an increase of power and influence to these provinces—will bring into them a large amount of capital and wealth—will enable them to enjoy an unparalleled amount of prosperity, free from that heavy load of taxation which is now weighing down the people of the United States. It is for reasons like these that the statesmen of the United States look with a jealous eye upon the establishment of institutions that are going to strengthen the connection that now binds us to the parent state and to make us great and powerful. I ask gentlemen opposite to weigh carefully the opinions which American statesmen express in respect to this measure of Confederation, and ask themselves whether they are justified in pursuing a policy antagonistic to the establishment of institutions which are not only going to make us prosperous but to place us in a position that will excite the envy of one of the greatest nations of the world. (Cheers.)

MONDAY, March 18.

EVENING SESSION.

The house resumed at 7.30.

The adjourned debate was resumed.

Speech of Mr. Annand.

MR. ANNAND said—I have been for twenty-five years a member of the Legislature—so long a time that, though not very far advanced in years I have become the father of the house, but long as my experience has been, I never until the present occasion witnessed an evening session on the second day of our meeting. But I take this to be all of a piece with the arbitrary proceedings by which Confederation is to be forced upon the people of this Province—time is not to be given for deliberation and free discussion. We have been told that the season is advanced, and that the revenue laws will soon expire, but certainly we had a right to expect that upon so important a subject as changing the constitution of the Province, at least a week's debate would have been allowed us without seriously interfering with the public business. The revenue bills last year were brought down on the 28th of March, and we could therefore have been allowed ten days for this question, and still have left as much time as was deemed necessary last year for arranging the tariff. The Provincial Secretary has said that he stood here last year as the defender of the Quebec scheme—that he was a consistent defender of that scheme—but I was surprised to hear him tell us that its terms were inferior to those which he and his colleagues at Westminster Palace Hotel have obtained for us. I was surprised at that statement, because after a calm examination I have come to the deliberate conclusion that those terms are far worse. Let me remind the House of the remarks made by the gentleman who made overtures to the Government to bring down a resolution for the appointment of delegates. He said he rose to condemn the Quebec scheme—that he desired to see it destroyed, and a bet-

ter one framed. Another gentleman, representing a distant constituency, made similar observations, expressing his pleasure that the Government had abandoned the measure adopted at the Quebec Conference. But what do we find in the English press, and the speech of Mr. Adderly in the House of Commons? That the bill introduced by the Earl of Carnarvon, at the instance of the Delegates, is in substance the Quebec scheme. When then, are we, to credit, the hon. Provincial Secretary, or the Under Secretary for the Colonies? And then we have the bill, which speaks for itself. The delegates were charged under the resolution of this house to arrange a scheme of union with the Imperial Government which would effectually ensure just provision for the rights and interests of this Province—far better terms than those embodied in the Quebec scheme, which the Government had virtually abandoned.

We are told that "better terms" have been obtained, and I ask the Provincial Secretary to point out in what respect the new Confederation scheme is an improvement on the old one. Why confine himself to a bald declaration upon a subject of such magnitude and deep interest to the people of this country? I join issue with the hon. leader of the Government on this point. I contend that the terms obtained by the delegates, instead of being better, are far worse than those embodied in the resolutions adopted at Quebec. Under the Quebec scheme our local legislature would have had the right to impose an export duty on coal, from which a large revenue might, if it was thought proper, be raised and applied to the local wants of the country. That right has been taken away from us, and transferred to the Government of Canada, who are clothed with the power of taxing as they please one of the most valuable exports of the Province. It is clear, then, that in respect to our minerals, worse instead of better terms have been the result of the negotiations on the other side of the water. Then there is the much discussed subject of the Intercolonial Railway, estimated to cost four millions of pounds sterling, which it was said would be guaranteed by the British Government if the Provinces consented to unite in a Confederation. But, as I understand the present position of affairs, the Imperial authorities will not venture to ask Parliament to guarantee more than three millions—a sum sufficient to carry the road into the midst of a howling wilderness, leaving it there, and benefitting no one but those charged with the expenditure of the money. But then I will be told that the financial terms are better—that much larger grants for local purposes have been secured under the new arrangement than the old one. The delegates will say, "have we not procured \$60,000 a year for defraying the expenses of your local government, over and above the 80 cents a head you were to receive under the Quebec scheme;—and have we not also made an arrangement by which you will continue to receive your 80 cents a head until your population is 400,000?" This is quite true, but the concession will be estimated at its true worth when I inform the house of the large increase of revenue which has taken place in the Province since the adoption of the resolutions of the Quebec Conference. These were framed in 1864, and the fi-