

where the Assembly shall meet. The other parts of Upper and of Lower Canada are each to be divided into two districts. It is proposed that these districts should be formed for the purpose of becoming municipal districts, for the imposition of taxes and rates, for all local purposes.

My next quotation shall be from the proceedings of a body of gentlemen who made a great commotion in their day and generation—the British American League. I hold in my hand the proceedings of the League of 3rd November, 1849, and among other names mentioned I find those of the Hon. GEORGE MOFFATT, THOMAS WILSON, the Hon. GEO. CRAWFORD, the Hon. ASA A. BURNHAM, JOHN W. GAMBLE, Mr. AIKMAN, of Barton, OGLE R. GOWAN, JOHN DUGGAN, the Hon. Col. FRASER, GEORGE BENJAMIN, the Hon. P. M. VANKOUGHNET, and last, though not least, the Hon. JOHN A. MACDONALD—of whom, however, I find it recorded that he spoke in a very jocose manner. Here is the resolution of the League:—

That whether protection or reciprocity shall be conceded or withheld, it is essential to the welfare of this colony, and its future good government, that a Constitution should be framed in unison with the wishes of the people, and suited to the growing importance and intelligence of the country, and that such Constitution should embrace a union of the British North American Provinces on mutually advantageous and fairly arranged terms, with the concession from the Mother Country of enlarged powers of self-government.

I pass on to 1856 when we had the motion and speech of my honorable friend the Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. GALT) in favor of a union of all the British American Provinces, but, as the whole House is familiar with it, I shall not read the document. But in the Votes and Proceedings of this House, of 25th April, 1856, I find a very remarkable document. It is a notice of motion to be made in this House—and its contents are as follow:—

Resolved—1. That the inconveniences arising from the Legislative Union between Upper and Lower Canada, render desirable the dissolution of that union.

2. That a committee be appointed to enquire into the means which should be adopted to form a new political and legislative organization of the heretofore provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, either by the establishment of their former territorial divisions, or by a division of each province so as to form a confederation having a Federal Government, and a local legislature for each one of the new provinces, and to deliberate as to the course which should be adopted to regulate the affairs of united Canada in a manner which would

be equitable to the different sections of the province.

HON. MR. CARTIER.—Whose notice was that?

HON. MR. BROWN.—This notice of motion was given by my honorable friend the member for Hochelaga (Hon. Mr. DORION.) (Cheers.)

HON. MR. DORION.—It was in amendment of that of the honorable member for Sherbrooke, which I did not exactly like.

HON. MR. HOLTON—and which that honorable gentleman did not venture to move, so that the House did not pronounce upon it.

HON. MR. BROWN.—But my honorable friend (Hon. Mr. DORION) made a speech, which I perfectly remember. He held this motion in his hand while he spoke.

HON. MR. DORION—I made a speech on the motion of the honorable member for Haldimand, Mr. MACKENZIE, not on my own.

HON. MR. BROWN.—That does not signify. I seek not to fasten down my honorable friend to the views he then held. Much light has been thrown on the whole subject since 1856, and I trust we will all act on our conscientious convictions of what is best for the country now—without regard to any opinions we may at other times have held. (Hear, hear.) But when my honorable friend and others allege that there never has been in Canada an agitation in favor of a Federal system, and that the people have never considered such a proposition, I think it directly in point to prove the contrary by my honorable friend's own proceedings. (Hear, hear.) The next step in the constitutional agitation of the country was the formation of the BROWN-DORION Administration. That was in 1858—and to show how serious my honorable friend opposite (Hon. Mr. DORION) and myself and our ten colleagues viewed the position of the country from the denial of constitutional reform, I will read the official statement of the basis on which the Government was formed. I read, sir, from the Journals of the Legislative Council for 1858:—

For some years past, sectional feelings have risen in this country, which, especially during the present session, have seriously impeded the carrying on of the administrative and legislative functions of the Government. The late Administration made no attempt to meet these difficulties or to suggest a remedy for them, and thereby the evil has been greatly aggravated. His Excellency's present Advisers have entered the Government with the fixed determination to propose constitutional measures for the establishment of that harmony between Upper and Lower Canada