

in reference to the question of Confederation. Let it be marked, too, that of this number only 3000 could be induced to express the opinion that they disapproved of the Confederation of British North America. The remaining number only said that they were not able to make up their minds on the subject—they wanted more information. Contrast the meagre results after the tremendous efforts that had been put forth, with those that had been attained, some years ago, by one party alone in this country. In the course of some three or four weeks, some 26,000 petitioners had approached the House asking for a dissolution on the ground that the men then in power did not possess the confidence of the country.

The time would come when the people could legitimately be called upon to give their opinion on the question—when they were fully informed, they would support it in the most convincing manner. He had had an opportunity of testing the feelings of the country already. He went up into the County of Hants, and at a large public meeting held in the town of Windsor, had conclusive proof that the sentiment there, at all events, was in favor of the scheme. Again, at a meeting held at Kentville—one that was called by the opponents of Confederation, in a County where the most deceptive and fallacious statements had been promulgated—after a lengthy discussion, a resolution to defer the consideration of the question was voted down at the close. Again, he had delivered a lecture on the subject in connection with the collegiate institution in that county, and on that occasion the demonstrations given were of the most satisfactory character. Then he had attended a meeting in Colchester, and he would ask gentlemen opposite whether the Southern District would not rise up to-morrow, almost to a man, in favor of a Union of British North America? In Cumberland he travelled for a hundred miles—from Mill Village to Cornwallis—and found the public sentiment, not only of one, but of both political parties, in favor of the scheme. Then he went into Annapolis, and attended a meeting called at Bridgetown by the opponents of Confederation. He found he did not stand alone there, but was supported by some of the most highly educated, respectable and intelligent men that had opposed the Government. When the recently returned member (Mr. Ray) moved a resolution simply asking for delay, he (Dr. T.) called upon the meeting to vote it down, and not even give a semblance of opposition to a union of British North America. The hon. member then called upon the supporters of the resolution to follow him out, and when they had done so, they were hardly missed in that densely crowded house. Again, he went to Annapolis, and there the same hon. member, who acted with a great deal of tact, saw that, in the temper of his constituents, it was not wise to move a resolution similar to the one at Bridgetown.

Was it to be said, then, that nine-tenths of the people of this country were opposed to Confederation? He believed there were certain sections that had never hesitated to oppose it—some there were whose predilections were not so much in favor of British institutions, but whose feelings as well as commercial relations drew them largely towards the neighboring republic. But no large body of people were found actually hostile to this great

question. Was it not known that the head of the Episcopal Church—one of the most highly educated and influential gentlemen in this country—one who stood aside from all political parties—whose great object was the advancement of his church and the common interests of the province in which he lives—was openly and unequivocally in favor of union. Again, His Grace the Archbishop—a gentleman whom all creeds and classes respect—one of the most sagacious and far-seeing men in the country—had come out boldly and fearlessly to vindicate union. That eminent man did not believe the scheme would sell us to Canada; on the contrary, that it would promote the security of Nova Scotia, and preserve its present institutions and its connection with the mother country, and, at the same time, advance, in common with the rest of those of the people, the interests of which he is the ecclesiastical head. The organs of the Presbyterian church, (the *Presbyterian Witness*), of the Methodist, (the *Wesleyan*), and of the Baptist, (the *Christian Messenger*), were all known to support the Confederation of these provinces. Was it to be said, then, in the light of such facts as these that nine-tenths of the people were opposed to this great scheme?

Over in New Brunswick the opponents of confederation had had a very doubtful success. Notwithstanding all their exertions—all the misrepresentations of the opponents of confederation, they had only got in the whole of the province a bare majority of the votes of the people. So closely balanced was the vote on either side that it was almost impossible to draw the line between them. In fact, the opponents of confederation having polled 500 votes more than the friends of the scheme. Yet the people of England was to be made to believe that not only nine-tenths of the people in Nova Scotia, but in New Brunswick as well, were opposed to the confederation of British America.

In conclusion, he called upon the House to consider the position in which it would be placed if it passed the resolution. Would it elevate itself in the opinion of strangers, if it were to so far forget what was due to its position and dignity as to express unfriendly feelings on an occasion when some of the most eminent statesmen of British America were touching our shores? He would recall the attention of gentlemen to the kindness and generosity with which the people of Canada had greeted the Delegates from the Maritime Provinces. So far was the feeling in Quebec at the commencement from being cordial towards the object of the delegates, that the chairman of the Board of Trade, at the dinner, actually felt himself bound to say that that Association did not feel itself prepared to express any approval of Union. The Delegates went to that dinner under the conviction that a large number of the most eminent merchants of Quebec were in a position of avowed hostility to the objects of the Conference. But they did not attempt to hiss the Delegates when they explained their position,—they behaved themselves like educated gentlemen,—they felt they could tender their hospitalities without compromising their own opinions. The feeling that prevailed all through Canada, wherever the Delegates went, was that the visit was an occasion for the display of inter-provincial courtesy. Political men of all shades of opinion vied with each