

here and advocates some local matter, do I not feel that it is my duty to assist him if his request ought to be granted? This legislature does not hesitate a moment in answering his appeal. So it would be in the case of confederation. Every man in the general parliament—whether from Canada or Nova Scotia—would feel an equal interest in the whole confederacy. I cannot see what possible interest the Canadians could have for crushing or injuring us? Is it not obvious that it would be for their interests much more that we should be a city of 100,000 instead of 30,000 people. It is for the interest of Canada to build up our great seaports on the Atlantic so that she may have an outlet to the ocean when the St. Lawrence is closed. Without these great outlets of trade of St. John and Halifax, Canada would be placed in a position of great difficulty in time of war with the great power on her frontier. My hon. friend from Cape Breton has alluded to my presence at Charlottetown, when the delegates were meeting there, but I do not imagine that fact had much influence over confederation. He told you at the outset that you were injuring the best interests of the country, by going into confederation; but he went so far as to say at the close that whenever the people were prepared for union he was ready to obey their wishes. Under these circumstances I do not think we can put him down as a most determined opponent of confederation. I believe the time will come when the people of this country will be ready to acknowledge the necessity of confederation, and adopt it. They will see the great benefits that they must derive from breaking down these vexatious custom houses that now stand on your frontier, so many obstacles to the growth of industry and wealth in these Provinces. Look at your different currencies. Go to P. E. Island and you find your money actually has increased in value. Go, again, to New Brunswick and you find it decreased. Thus by every means in our power we create hostility between these several provinces. Does any person pretend to assert for an instant that this is a state of things that should be allowed to prevail for a single moment more than we can help it? That these provinces belonging to the same crown, and influenced by the same spirit of loyalty to the British Empire should perpetuate all the incongruities that now exist? I awaited with fear and trembling the results of the Quebec Conference; but, when I considered them carefully, I have no hesitation in saying that the best interests of Nova Scotia were carefully guarded. I was afraid that our most valuable resources—our mines and minerals—might be yielded up by Confederation, and I was proud to find that our delegates had wisely reserved to this country this valuable source of revenue. I am convinced that these resources alone under Confederation would give us all the means necessary to carry on our local affairs. We have only to look at the results that have been obtained during the past four or five years to gain some idea of what we may expect in the future from these invaluable resources. As respects the financial argument, I shall not say much, for it is superfluous to do so. It is a matter of little consequence whether we pay a few cents more a head, provided we get in return corresponding advantages. Or, is it to be supposed that our burthens will not be increased more largely than they are now in

the natural order of things, whether we have Confederation or not? Suppose we have Confederation, are we all to stand still? I presume each of these colonies will continue to prosper as they have for the past ten or fifteen years—that the revenue of each will correspondingly increase. And how will the large revenue at the disposal of the General Government be expended? I presume in accordance with the wants of the whole Confederacy—not with respect to the interests of any particular colony. Whenever any great public works are required in any part they will be gone on with.

Mr. McDONNELL: In the North-West territory, for instance.

Mr. McFARLANE: I believe the time will come, although many of us will not live to see it, when that vast region will be the abode of millions of human beings. There you have a territory abounding in most valuable resources, and which could afford means of subsistence to more people than can be found on this Continent. A good deal has been said about the Canadas combining for the purpose of injuring the Maritime Provinces. Now any one acquainted with public affairs on this Continent must know that there must long be antagonism between the two sections into which Canada is divided. That antagonism proceeds from something more than mere diversity of interests—it is one that is the strongest of all, that of race. The population of Lower Canada is as loyal as any in British America—being decidedly monarchical in its tendency, and well satisfied with the advantages it receives from its connection with the British Empire. That French population has to a large extent the same interests as we have, and we may be sure they would combine with the Maritime Provinces in preference to the Upper Canadians. I feel, however, that it is unnecessary for me to go into the subject of Union at length, for, as I said at the outset, it is not actually before us. I don't believe the time has arrived for its full discussion in this House. Let me say, however, that the friends of Confederation have never had a wish to force it upon the people—strongly convinced as they are that it is connected with the best interests of the country. Entertaining these views, I feel that it is my duty to use all the means in my power to convince those who are within the scope of my influence. I believe in all sincerity that the time will soon come when the people will be found fully alive to the beneficial results that will accrue from this scheme. Let its friends be patient, and use all the legitimate means at their command to make their views known to the people. Can any one believe that this Province should continue to remain in the isolated condition it has been for fifty years? That we are now going on prosperously no one can doubt. Nova Scotia is certainly one of the most flourishing colonies of the British Empire, but Confederation will not endanger that prosperity. I believe, indeed, that confederation is necessary in order to preserve the enjoyment of that peace and prosperity we now have. I have no hesitation in saying that when the war is over in the States, I do not apprehend much danger to ourselves; I believe that the people will not be anxious for hostilities with a power like England, and that they will not be willing to add to the great burthens they have already created. But, at the same time, I believe they