

ing her to make the renewed offer any ground why it should be rejected? I say a proposal was made to this Government in 1859, and is recorded on the Journals of this House for the Session of 1859. The following is the Report of the Committee of the Council of Canada as laid before the House that Session.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Executive Council of Canada, dated 4th September, 1858, approved by His Excellency the Governor General:

The Committee of Council are respectfully of opinion that it is expedient to bring the subject of the Union of the British North American Colonies under the notice of Her Majesty's Government with as little delay as possible, and to inform the Government of each such Colony that the attention of Her Majesty has been called to the subject by Your Excellency.

That Your Excellency should submit to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the propriety of authorizing a meeting of Delegates on behalf of each Colony, and of Upper and Lower Canada respectively, for the purpose of considering the subject of such Federative Union, and reporting on the principles on which the same could properly be based.

That such Delegates should be appointed by the Executive Government of each Colony, and meet with as little delay as possible.

That the Report of such Delegates should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that a copy of it, as soon as it is prepared, should be placed in the hands of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of each Colony, in order that he may lay the same before the Provincial Parliament with as little delay as possible.

Certified.

(Signed) W. H. LEE, C. E. C.

Here is a distinct proposal for a Federal Union of these Colonies, and it was not new even then, for it has been before the people and discussed by statesmen of British North America for some twenty years. The hon. ex-Attorney General stated that Canada had interfered with our legislation. Now the fact is, that an arrangement was made with us that unless the measure of Union could be carried out they would have to take some other steps with regard to a change in their constitution, and they delayed the opening of the House there till late, to see what changes would be made here. The hon. member appealed to this House in most glowing and eloquent terms in favor of the Hon. Joseph Howe. But, sir, I always had a great respect for that gentleman's abilities, and I have sat at the feet of that Gamaliel, hoping to hear something from him, and from him I learned some deep and profitable lessons on the confederation of these Colonies. But I remember a time, sir, when the hon. member did not eulogize the Hon. Joseph Howe. I remember that when that gentleman and others had concluded an ar-

angement with Canada to build the Inter-Colonial Railway, he made a stirring speech in opposition to that arrangement. The hon. ex-Attorney General says that Mr. Howe is opposed to this Union, and that his voice will be heard at the bar of the House of Commons against it, but what have been the ideas and sentiments expressed by that great man from time to time?

In a speech delivered in the year 1851 he said, after eloquently describing the greatness of the back country (the cold country) of Canada:

"With such a territory as this, to overrun, organize and improve, think you we shall stop soon at the Western bounds of Canada, or even at the shores of the Pacific? Vancouver's Island with its vast coal fields lies beyond. The beautiful islands of the Pacific and the growing commerce of that ocean are beyond. Populous China and the rich East are beyond, and the sails of our children's children will reflect as familiarly the sunbeams of the South as they now brave the angry tempests of the North. The Maritime Provinces which I now address, are but the Atlantic frontage of this boundless and prolific region—the wharves upon which the business will be transacted, and beside which its rich argosies lie."

I am neither a prophet or the son of a prophet, yet I will venture to predict that in five years we shall make the journey hence to Quebec and Montreal and home through Portland and St. John by rail; and I believe that many in this room will live to hear the whistle of the steam engine in the passes of the Rocky Mountains, and to make the journey from Halifax to the Pacific in five or six days."

Having sketched some of the public men of New Brunswick, and brought out in bold relief the proportions of that great field of honorable ambition and exertion upon which they would tread if Union of the Provinces by iron roads had been followed by the political organization which would be the result, Mr. Howe said:

"If the sphere were wide enough here what would you do with such men? You would send Judge Wilnot to administer justice. Where? To a small Province? No, but to our American Empires."

And where did the hon. member place him?

Mr. SMITH—Where he ought to be.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY—Yes, and the people have left the late Government where they ought to be. But Mr. Howe went on: "You would place Mr. Chandler on the Bench of the United Provinces. You would hold out to the young men of your country a sphere and a field for their exertions and ambition which none of them have open to them now. How? With the consent of the Sovereign and the acquiescence of the Imperial authorities, by the united action and good sense of the Provinces, you would seek by Union to

elevate them all to a higher status than any of them separately can ever occupy."

This is the language of the friend of the hon. ex-President of the Council.

Again, at a dinner in Halifax in the summer of 1864, he made a most telling speech, which is but imperfectly sketched by the reporter. He says: "In almost every city of importance in British America his voice had been heard, and if ever occasion required it would be heard again. He had never pursued a sectional policy. He had for many years been looking at the important Provinces of British North America, and thinking how they could be made strong, vigorous and great, with the old flag of England floating over the inhabitants. A Union of the Provinces was the dream of his boyhood, and he was now pleased to find Her Majesty's subjects of all creeds and professions anxiously looking forward to the time when they could build up a new England—Monarchical and not Republican—on this side of the Atlantic. He hoped the day was not far distant when a railway would connect Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada. He wanted to see Canada not every five years, but twice a year; and he wanted the Canadians, when fever and ague racked their bones, to come down to the ocean to renew their energies and recruit their strength. After referring to the agricultural capabilities of Canada, the fisheries and mineral resources of Nova Scotia, and the importance of New Brunswick, he asked if the people would be content to remain divided and live and die in territorial insignificance? He had always been in favor of uniting two, three, or even four and five of the Provinces, and he hoped it would yet be accomplished. He observed that there was a movement on foot, the object of which was to divide Canada; but he would say to the Canadians that if they did separate, they would commit an act of political suicide."

So says the Hon. Joseph Howe, the friend of the hon. ex-President of the Council. I happened to be in Nova Scotia when Mr. McGee held a meeting in Halifax to agitate the Union of the Colonies. Dr. Tupper waited on Mr. Howe to second a resolution of vote of thanks to Mr. McGee, which was proposed by Mr. Johnson. The speech is thus reported:

"Hon. Mr. Howe rose to second the vote of thanks. In the course of a brief but elegant address, he paid a high tribute to the excellent qualities of Mr. McGee both in public and private life. He was pleased to see him there, because he was an admirable propagator of the opinions he entertained. He hoped the time was not far distant when local feeling and prejudice would