

wrong the government who have educated the people up to it—who have taught them that, in order to carry certain objects, they will receive such large sums, are alone to blame. I consider, however, all the money is required for the roads and bridges. You will see by the figures I have given that the sum required for the roads and bridges would nearly swallow up the subsidy. Can you reduce the grants for education, to the hospital for the insane, for relief, the penitentiary, and other services? You know you cannot without imperilling the public service. Therefore the inevitable result is, as Mr. Galt has told you, in his speech, if the local revenues are not sufficient, you *must* resort to *direct taxation*. There is no doubt whatever that this must be the case if this scheme is carried out. When I feel that the institutions of our country are to be swept away, and that the control of our resources is to be handed over to a people with whom we have no sympathy, am I not right in asking this House to pause? What chance would there be, in such an event, of our being able to push forward those public improvements that are now being carried on? All our *surplus* revenue, as I have said, will go to Ottawa; and I ask gentlemen who look forward to the time when railway communication will extend from Pictou to Antigonish, to Guysboro, aye, even through the Island of Cape Breton, and again westward to Annapolis and Digby and Yarmouth, what chance will there be of having their anticipations realized? Only those who are to be elevated from this country to Ottawa can be satisfied with a state of things so disastrous to the Province of Nova Scotia.

THURSDAY, April 13.

House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. PRYOR introduced a bill relating to traffic on the streets of Halifax.

The following bills were read a third time:—To provide for the salary of the Governor's Private Secretary;—to incorporate the Home Missionary Board of the Baptist Church;—to change the name of Ratchford River;—to incorporate the Oak Point Pier Company;—to provide for certain Bridges in the County of Hants;—to incorporate the Trustees of St. Matthew's Church;—to amend the law relating to licenses.

CONFEDERATION.

Mr. MILLER said that he wished to call the attention of the house to a subject of considerable importance at the present moment; and he regretted that in doing so he had not the advantage of the presence of the members of government, who ought to be in their places attending to the business of the country. He need not remind the house that one of the most momentous questions that ever agitated the public mind was then under discussion—the question of the union of the British North American Colonies. He thought that in view of the aspect that question had lately assumed—in view of the unmistakable evidences of public opinion which had recently been given—there was but little room to doubt that nineteen-tenths of the people of Nova Scotia were opposed to the scheme propounded by the Canadian delegates. He believed that it must be admitted on all sides that almost the only spot in Nova Scotia where the subject received any

favor, was the city of Halifax; and he was sorry to be obliged to say that some of the citizens of Halifax had acted in a manner insolent and overbearing to the rest of the inhabitants of the province. (Laughter from the members for Halifax.) The hon. gentlemen laugh, but he (Mr. M.) would tell them that this was too grave a matter to be laughed at. He would tell them in the face of the house and the country that the people of Nova Scotia were not to be laughed at either by the citizens of Halifax or their representatives in that house. He trusted that before this discussion was finished they would be given to understand that there were other people in the province, whose views were entitled to respect, besides those who resided within the limits of the metropolis.—That morning, upon taking up the organ of the government he found a notice of a public demonstration that was to take place that evening in honor of the Canadian delegates, who were expected to arrive in the steamer, on their way to England to advocate the scheme of the Quebec conference. Notwithstanding, as he had said, that it was well known to those acquainted with public sentiment in this province that nineteen-twentieths of the whole population were opposed to the scheme, he could not help looking on this demonstration as an attempt to misrepresent the state of feeling that existed in the minds of a great majority of our people—to mislead the delegates and the people of England touching our views of this great question, and to exasperate and insult the intelligence of this country. Perhaps, however, he would not have felt it his duty to have called the attention of the house to the subject but for a circumstance connected with the demonstration, which was deserving of public notice. He perceived a place assigned in the programme to the Volunteer Artillery, and the other volunteer companies. Now, he would ask, was it right or proper that the Volunteer force of this province, which had ever been kept aloof from party or political influences, should be asked to take part in a demonstration which was not only political in its character, but hostile to the feelings of a vast majority of the people of this country. He had no objections to the citizens of Halifax as citizens indulging in any demonstration they pleased, provided it would not misrepresent the whole province, but he thought that gentlemen on both sides would agree with him that this attempt to draw the Volunteer organization into the matter, was, to say the least of it, unwise and injudicious in the extreme. It was well known that these gentlemen who were going across the water were going with no feelings of approval of the conduct of the people of the Maritime Provinces. For aught that was known they were going charged with the duty of forcing upon this people a union hostile to their feelings and their interests. It was understood that in England and elsewhere Halifax would be considered to represent the public sentiment of Nova Scotia, and when the delegates go home they will be able to point to their reception in this city as a proof of our desire for confederation. He believed this was the object of the procession that would take place that night.

Was it not then the duty of every one who was opposed to the scheme publicly to denounce a demonstration got up in the capital for the purpose of influencing the public sentiment of the mother country, and of producing