

will adopt every means in their power to extract all they can from these provinces,—by hostile tariffs and such means. Therefore I feel that it is essential for these provinces to make such arrangements as will make them independent, as far as possible, of the States, and give them a market where they will not be met by hostile restrictions.

Speech of Mr. Locke.

MR. LOCKE said :—As this question appears to be entirely used up, I do not rise with the hope of throwing any new light upon it, either financially—politically or otherwise, but having presented a number of petitions from my constituents upon the subject, I feel that it is due to them, as well as to myself, that I should offer a few observations, in explanation of the course I intend to take.

It will be in the recollection of the House, that at the last session, a resolution was passed, authorizing a conference to be held between Delegates from this Province, and New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, on the subject of a Union of the Maritime Provinces. In accordance with that resolution, the Delegates proceeded to Charlottetown, and after deliberating for a day—in an incredibly short space of time, they came to the conclusion, that a Union of the Lower Provinces was impracticable, and they admitted into the conference a number of gentlemen from Canada, who speedily indoctrinated them with their views upon the question of the larger Union of all the Provinces. The result was that our Delegates returned to Halifax, and immediately proceeded to Quebec. Now sir before going any further, I should like to ask these gentlemen upon what principle they received these Canadian Delegates at all. They were only authorized to confer upon the subject of a Union of the Lower Provinces, and yet by some means or other, they appear to have lost sight of that altogether, and to have been led entirely by the opinions of the gentlemen from Canada.

Now sir, I do not intend to reflect upon the conduct of the Delegates. I have too much respect for the honor and integrity of the public men of this Country to impute to them interested motives, and I have no doubt that in taking the course they did, they acted in a way which they believed was for the best interests of the Province; we must suppose, taking a charitable view of the case, they erred in judgment. I do not question their constitutional right to proceed to Quebec, and take part in the Conference which was there held—because the members of a Government possess the power to deal as they think best, with the interests of the country they are called upon to govern, but when men possess power it is not always advisable to exercise it arbitrarily, and therefore as a matter of policy, and in view of the expressed feeling of this House, I think it would have been better for the Government to have obtained the sanction of the House, before they entered upon the consideration of the larger question of the Confederation of these North American Provinces. They did not however think proper to do so, and we must therefore deal with the question as we find it.

The very first article of the Report of the Quebec Conference, recites as the groundwork, upon which a Union should take place, that it is advisable “provided it can be effected on principles just to the several provinces. Those concluding words contain the gist of the whole matter. I contend that the terms as arranged at that Conference are not “just to the several provinces”—more especially as regards Nova Scotia. I hold that in adopting the principle of representation by population, they have ignored other important interests of this Province, which are entitled to consideration. There are other matters to be considered besides mere blood and bones. There is the mining interest which contributes so largely to our provincial prosperity, there is the shipping interest, which as has been stated in this debate, is equal to one eighteenth of that possessed by the British Empire, and represents a capital of eight millions of dollars. Is that not an interest worth protecting and worthy of representation? Canada has nothing to compare with that. It is true that she has a large inland trade by means of her canals, but we cannot participate in the advantages to be derived from them. Then again there is a most important branch of industry, the fisheries, and in connection with that there is one part of the report which I cannot understand, and which I should like the hon. Prov. Sec. to explain. I perceive that by a clause of the constitution, the general government are to have control over the sea coast and inland fisheries, while by another clause the same power is given to the local government. The same thing occurs in reference to Agriculture and Emigration. Both Governments according to the terms agreed upon by the Delegates, are to have control over these subjects, and yet that can scarcely be possible. I can only say that if the control of these important matters has been surrendered to the general Government, that our Delegates have shown but little regard for the best interests of the country.

By this principle of representation by population, a very unfair advantage is given to Canada. Everybody knows that Emigration to that country is increasing every year, and as the representation is by this scheme to be adjusted every ten years upon the basis of population, it follows that she will possess an unfair advantage over the Maritime Provinces, which do not offer the same inducements to Emigrants that she does. I believe that at the close of the first period of ten years, Upper Canada will have increased her population ten per cent, while our increase will not amount to more than five. It will be seen therefore that in this respect, the terms agreed upon are not just or equitable to the several Provinces, and it appears as if the Delegates from this Province had entirely lost sight of what is manifestly an undue advantage conceded to Canada.

Then again on turning to the Report of the Delegates, I find that the general Government, is to have the control of trade and commerce, the imposition of excise and customs duties, and the control of railroads and canals. This latter clause is of the utmost importance to us. It is well known that the Canadians are anxious to extend