

great value. For my own part, however, I do not underrate its influence; but it should be remembered that the *Times* got its inspiration from the same source as Mr. Cardwell—from the gentlemen who formed the Convention.—If the *Times* writers had been living amongst us, or had means of knowing the tendency of public opinion in these provinces, its articles would have been very different. The views of Mr. Howe, Mr. Johnston, and Mr. Young have been referred to in connection with this question. Mr. Howe held certain opinions respecting representation in the Imperial Parliament, and has expressed various views at various times on the Union of the Provinces. But may not circumstances have very much changed since such views were expressed? I have myself expressed opinions favorable to a Union. I have wished that the time would come when we might form a great nation. If a humble individual like myself saw reason to change his views, might not Mr. Howe and others do the same? Are gentlemen bound to entertain the same views always irrespective of circumstances that may arise requiring a modification or change of these views. A great stress has been laid upon the nationality that these Provinces would acquire; instead of being insignificant dependencies, they would form a nation that would be respected abroad. I believe that the formation of such a nation would lead to independence of England. Isolated as we are now, we could not form an independent state. Perhaps, however, some gentlemen have longings to see such a result obtained.

I have no desire to dwell further upon this subject, except to say that I am quite unwilling to support the resolution on the table unless there is a guarantee given that no change will be effected without consulting the wishes of the people. The matter has now assumed a very different aspect to what it did when the resolution was introduced last session. We authorized these gentlemen to perform certain duties and they went beyond their authority, and their course has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction. Under such circumstances I cannot authorize any set of men to suggest any change that will touch our constitution without an appeal to the people. With the people of this country must rest the decision as to a union of the Maritime Provinces. I believe, in all sincerity, that we are prospering sufficiently, and I cannot see how any change in our constitution is going to improve our present condition. I had intended referring to some other points which have been brought up in this debate, especially to the remarks of the Provincial Secretary as to the influence that the Cape Breton members exercise in this house; but as I shall perhaps have an opportunity of doing so, I shall not enter upon this subject at length at present. Let me say, however, that such an influence does not exist, and the Provincial Secretary knows it well. No section of this Province exercises less influence than Cape Breton in provincial matters. If there is a public office to be filled up, Cape Breton is entirely ignored, and many of its adopted sons' claims, some of them very strong indeed, have been disregarded, whilst a few counties are especially favored. I have already referred to Cumberland in connection with the delegation. Perhaps the hon. Provincial Secretary can explain the especial claims of that county to consideration. Is all the ability and

talent of the country in that county? Look again at the county of Annapolis; that county has given a judge to the bench—a gentleman who is an ornament to the position, all will admit. We have also taken a deputy secretary from that county, a Sol. General, a commissioner of railways, and I believe, sir, that you, the chief Commoner of Nova Scotia, are also a native of Annapolis,—besides the promise of a railway, and Bear River bridge grant. And yet despite all these favors heaped upon them, how ungrateful were the people last election. I think I can promise any government that would give us all these good things more support from the island of Cape Breton than this ungrateful county of Annapolis has given, for the Cape Bretonians are always grateful. However, I shall not dwell upon this question at present, for it is, perhaps, somewhat foreign to the real matter at issue. In conclusion, let me say that I regret having occupied so much time in addressing the house, and I must apologize for not having acquitted myself as well as was due to the house; but I feel strongly upon this question, and must repeat what I have already said—that no question involving a change in our constitution should be dealt with by this house, without the wishes of the people being first consulted.

Speech of Mr. McFarlane.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE said:—At this late period of the session I feel that it is absurd to attempt to engage the attention of the house with any lengthy speech. Indeed, I do not think the subject we are now discussing is one which should have occupied so much time as it has already. It appears to me that on the present occasion we are attempting to jump before we get to the style. Gentlemen have spent some three or four days in delivering speeches which would be quite appropriate if we had the question of union before us for our final decision. This resolution says on the face of it that a union with Canada is at present impracticable, and simply proposes a delegation to confer with others from the other Provinces on a subject of a union of the Maritime Colonies. Yet gentlemen have gone at great length into the subject of the union of all the provinces. Had that question come legitimately before the legislature, then it would have been our duty to have solemnly investigated the matter and given it our most mature consideration. But the untoward event that lately took place in New Brunswick prevented us dealing with the question of the larger union. All efforts to press forward any measure under such circumstances would have been spent in vain. I have no hesitation in saying that all my feelings are strongly in favor of union. I am not afraid to say that the general welfare of these provinces in the future is closely connected with their confederation. I do not believe that any connection with Canada would be other-wise than beneficial to us. Western Canada would feel that her interests were bound up with ours,—whatever benefitted us would be of advantage to her—and we would feel the same way. We would form all a part of one whole, and whatever affected one portion would affect the other. How is it with ourselves? Nova Scotia is divided into a number of counties. I know little of Yarmouth, but when the hon. member for that county comes