

their destinies with her's, who should first speak and instruct their representatives on this great question. But this right—their right—as I shall hereafter attempt to show, having been denied them, it becomes imperative on us to speak in their behalf; and when I reflect upon this, and consider that perhaps I am participating in the last discussion of the last Parliament of Nova Scotia, I feel almost borne down by the responsibilities of the position—by the solemnities of the hour. The Prov. Sec. says we shrink from the discussion of this question. No sir, we do not. We never have been backward on any public occasion to discuss it, and all we ask now is that it may be carried down to every village and town in Nova Scotia, and upon full and fair discussion the decision of the people accepted. The member for Inverness says all the lawyers, all the leading statesmen—all the professed politicians favour the scheme and therefore the strong inference is that it is right. I beg to differ with him in his conclusion. When the professional politicians of a country—the men who make a living by politics—agree upon any measure I cannot regard it as evidence that it will be beneficial to their country. The simple fact that it is to improve the position of those of them who may be successful may make them unanimous in supporting it, and comparing the list of salaries in Canada with those in Nova Scotia we find so great a difference that it is not impossible, but it has influence here. Let me mention a few of the salaries found on that list.

	Canada.	Nova Scotia.
Atty General. East and West.	\$10 000	\$2,000
Solicitor General ditto ..	6,000	800
Contingencies ditto ..	3 800	000
Provincial Secretary	5 000	2,800
Clerks and contingencies	30,000	4 0-9
Surveyor General	5 000	2,000
Clerks and contingencies	94,049	8 15-
Receiver General	5 000	2,400
Financial Secretary	5 000	2,400
Clerks and contingencies	43 619	1 878
Executive Council expenses ..	25,610	400

From this comparison we might, if so disposed, draw the inference that the unanimity of our professional politicians arises from the fact that Confederation will give them very much larger salaries. But, much as we desire to discuss this question, we must protest against treating it in the tone and style of the past few days. The most dissolute and abandoned character, when brought into the presence of his death-warrant, assumes a more reformed and sometimes evinces a Christian-like spirit. The house has now before it its death-warrant, and while we may not hope to see it die like a Christian, it should at least imitate the Indian savage, who sings his death song with calmness and dignity, in the belief that he is about to enter the happy hunting-grounds, and in like manner did I expect to see the advocates of this proposition sing the death-song, inasmuch as it will give them the entrance to Canada, the "happy hunting-ground" for office-seekers. The government charged us who oppose this scheme with merely desiring delay, that on a change of government we may be in a position to carry the measure ourselves and divide the spoils. I do not accept the charge. I fling it back to those who make it, and tell them they are not the

men to impugn our motives. They who raised this question—who gave it existence—who have arranged all the offices: the Judgeships, the Governorships, and others, and who, when this measure is forced through as they are doing, shall fill those high positions, are the men of all others open to a charge of motives, and they should have more modesty than raise it. Sir, I envy no man his office or his honors, and God forbid that I should ever enjoy them at the sacrifice of my countrymen's rights. Others may take them, but however great their reward may be personally, it will not make their country's wounds the less sore. It is not true, as was believed in the dark days of superstition, that "a salve to the sword will cure the wound it has given." I oppose this proposition because I believe it wrong in itself; because, territorially situated as we are, it will tend to destroy the harmony and good feeling existing among these Provinces by bringing into conflict their diversified interests; that it will retard the prosperity of this province, by imposing upon us heavy financial burthens; that it will weaken our connection with the Mother Country and our means of defence, by rendering the people less attached to their form of government, and ultimately carry us into the arms of the Great Republic. Having taxed the patience of the House on a former occasion with my objections to the Quebec scheme, I need not now repeat them, although they are exactly applicable as against this resolution. For although not mentioned in it, the hon. introducer of the resolution has declared his entire approval of it, and will take care to appoint on the delegation a majority holding the same opinions as himself. Beside this we have before us nothing from any of the other Provinces to lead us to suppose that they have abandoned the Quebec arrangement. Indeed I do not see how the Canadian ministry can, when they only carried the measure through their house on a distinct pledge, that there should be no departure from the terms agreed upon at Quebec. I shall trouble the house with but one extract to this point, and from the speech of Hon. Atty. Gen. Carrier, who said:—

"I have already declared, in my own name, and on behalf of the government, that the delegates who go to England will accept from the Imperial government no act but one based on the resolutions adopted by this house, and they will not bring back any other. (Hear, hear.) I have pledged my word of honor, and that of the government, to that effect."

After such a pledge how can the Canadian delegates depart from the Quebec scheme? And presuming that the honorable members for Richmond and Inverness, Messrs. Miller and McDunnell, are appointed on the delegation they will be overruled by the Canadians and their co-delegates from Nova Scotia. I had proposed to direct the attention of the house to the obstacles to a Union, other than exists, in the configuration of the territory which it is proposed to confederate; but the hon. member for Yarmouth has so well illustrated this that I need not detain the house. I am sure those who listened to the hon. gentleman this afternoon must have felt the utter impossibility of uniting and so interweaving the several interests of that territory as to make them harmonize and blend as one. Our Province is almost an island,—detached