

vernment? Let me just look across the floor, and whom do I see? An hon. gentleman representing the great agricultural county of Kings—representing in himself wealth, intelligence, and ability. Let me look at Annapolis, and I find two members of that fine agricultural county also in favor of union. When I cast my eye down the list, I see gentlemen representing the great coal as well as the fishing interests of this province, all of them arrayed in support of this great measure of progress. I find that only two counties, through their representatives, voted unanimously against the resolution of last winter. I confess that at one time, in order to put down agitation on this question, my judgment inclined me to go to the polls; but when I come to look at the position of things in this house, I feel I would be worse than the infallible juryman if I expected to bring over thirty gentlemen to my opinion.

I have listened attentively to the arguments offered to the house since the debate commenced, and especially to those advanced by my hon. friend the member for East Halifax, who was one of the "People's Delegates," in company with a gentleman whose talents I admire and for whom I entertain the highest respect. What view did that hon. member present of the constitutional aspect of this question? I think that the pleasant time he spent in Kew Garden and Bushy Park, or perhaps the omnibuses rolling down Piccadilly, must have driven all arguments out of his head. I think that my hon. friend might have availed himself of the opportunities within his reach in the great English metropolis, and searched out some precedents and authority for the course he wishes us to pursue. As respects my hon. friend from Yarmouth, he is true to his text. He has always been opposed to railways and all measures of progress; in point of fact, he thinks Yarmouth the hub of the Province, and that we should always be tied to the old stage coach and move to the musical notes of the wooden axle. Now I think that the time has come to give up such antiquated notions; and I hope and trust the gentlemen who will be sent to represent the people at Ottawa—if that is the seat of government—will reflect the intelligence and ability of the country, and be in every way qualified to promote its best interests.

There was another question to which my hon. friend alluded, and that was the "Organization of the Empire" according to the programme issued by Mr. Howe. However highly I value that gentleman's opinion—however much I may esteem him, I cannot help believing that it is a scheme of an entirely impracticable character. Such is the opinion, indeed, of every public man and publicist everywhere who has given the subject the least consideration.

If there is one section of this Province more likely than another to be benefited by this Confederation, it is the city of Halifax. This must be the emporium, whence will be distributed over the Confederacy all the merchandize brought to our shores. Trade must be developed to an infinite degree, labour will be developed, in fact all classes and interests will receive a valuable impulse. Our port will be filled with shipping, and our wharves and warehouses groan with the merchandize that

will be required for the Confederation. I never could understand how certain persons in Halifax have opposed the scheme of Union. Perhaps I may stand almost alone in the profession to which I belong. There are a great many intelligent merchants I know opposed to it, but I cannot understand the reasons that influence them. No man is infallible, and some may not take that broad and generous view of questions which men in a different position of life can and do take on subjects of this kind. There is another question to which I have often referred, and that is, the position of our young men. What is there to excite ambition among our young men in the existing condition of things? The avenues to employment are narrow and confined. I regret to say that I know of many young men belonging to the respective professions whose energies are paralyzed for want of sufficient employment, and of those objects of ambition which are open to them in other countries.

An allusion having been made to the franchise law, I must say that that was an act passed in this Legislature from which I strongly dissented. I have labored not so much perhaps in public as other ways to have this obnoxious measure repealed. I am still as anxious as ever to see it struck off the statute book; for I want the men who sent me here to pass upon my public acts during the past four years.

Since the house adjourned last year I have had an opportunity of visiting Canada. I was at Ottawa when the Legislature was opened, and when the Fenian excitement prevailed. I was also at Malone and along the line; but nothing gave me greater pleasure during my visit than the manner in which the Ottawa Parliament was opened. I passed through Canada and looked upon its fertile fields, its vast resources, and its great commerce—its hardy and thrifty population—its noble cities replete with energy and enterprize.

It is only requisite for any one to pass through Canada to see that it is a country with which we ought to be proud to form a close alliance. I passed into the United States, and on my return I had the honor of meeting at Portland the Provincial Secretary and Mr. Archibald, and we had a very pleasant time as far as St. John, and then we went up to Fredericton, and whilst they were in communication with the members of the New Brunswick Government, I drove around the little capital of the sister Province. I was delighted to see so fine a country, such fine residences, and so highly an intelligent people. Previous to going to the United States, I had taken my passage in the Cunard steamer for the 19th of July, but had no idea that I would have had the honor of travelling in company with the delegates to England. It appears, however, that when I got on board I found four or five gentlemen from Nova Scotia and my hon. friend from East Halifax as well. We had a very pleasant passage across the Atlantic. I went ashore at Cork and passed through the old land, and then I left for London, where I saw my hon. friends at the Alexandra Hotel very comfortably situated, though it is true they appeared a little disappointed at the non arrival of their Canadian friends.

As regards the present question, I will take