

be a merchant or a banker,—I believe that the hon. member for Halifax who has spoken is himself a banker—and I am inclined to think that the selection of four merchants and a gentleman from the shore to represent the constituency of Halifax will be proved by the result to be a respectable and taking nomination. We have been told that the friends of Confederation will carry the county four to one. We were only afraid this morning that our candidates would have no opposition, and I am relieved to hear the hon. member for West Halifax say that there will be opposition, and that the game is not up yet. I have a strong desire to see that gentleman upon the hustings, and I sincerely regret that the Provincial Secretary has retired from the contest, for I should like to see him face the constituency of Halifax, where it has been said that the Union sentiment prevailed more strongly than in any other place. The men who formerly supported Confederation in this city feel that they cannot rally to the support of these gentlemen who have deprived them of the privileges of freemen. I was amused to hear him speak the other day as one of the sovereign people. What right has he to speak here in that capacity? The sovereign people have been denied the right to speak, and the measure of Union has been forced on them contrary to their well known sentiments. They were almost told in terms that they were not intelligent enough to decide the question, and are now appealed to by the very men who considered them so besotted and ignorant that the measure should be passed over their heads.—The hon. gentleman seemed surprised that the anti-Unionists should aspire to a seat at Ottawa. They will go there as the Nova Scotian party, not to be mixed up with the politics of Canada, to commit themselves to the support of either party, or to identify themselves with Canadian factions, but to be there to watch over the interests of Nova Scotia and to throw themselves into any scale in which they may secure the best advantages for their country. The House has been told that I shrink from offering myself to a constituency; it is well known that four years ago I decided upon the course which I have taken, and when I returned from England, and before I learned the result of the exertions of the delegates, I visited my constituency and gave those who supported me to understand, as I had previously given my family to understand, that it was not my intention again to offer. When asked if I would serve in the Dominion Parliament, I answered no. When asked if I would serve in the Local Parliament, I answered no, and when asked if I would continue in this House provided no change were made, my answer was "no"; I have had twenty-five years' public service, and you had better select a younger man for the work." When the Union measure passed, and the time came for consultation, I was pressed urgently to allow myself to be put in nomination by leading Conservatives and Liberals. I still firmly refused, and will continue to do so unless a nineteenth member of the Nova Scotia

Party is wanted to go to Ottawa. The Prov. Sec. spoke in glowing terms about the offers of support which were made to him; we know how he has been canvassing the city and the rebuffs he received from quarters where he expected the opposite treatment. He thought that he could bring to his support his old friends and perhaps that the old Conservative cry could be raised, but he found that not only he, but his friend, Mr. Tobin, had worn out their public reputation, and then it became convenient that his colleague in the representation of Cumberland should make way on the plea that the local interests of that county would be better represented by the Provincial Secretary. What have the local interests of Cumberland to do with the matter? I thought these gentlemen prided themselves on rising above local feeling, and considered such matters as lunatic asylums, ferries, roads and bridges were beneath their notice. But under cover of this plea the hon gentleman shrinks from facing the constituency of Halifax. He has said that no one was prepared to contest Cumberland with him, but I can tell him that he is mistaken. I would ask him what to day is the feeling in Parrsboro, Malagaash, Wallace, and other populous districts of Cumberland? That part of the county will have to be revolutionized before it will support a union candidate, and I pledge my word that the hon gentlemen will have opposition. We have been treated this afternoon to more declamation on the subject of the Intercolonial Railway. I repeat now, as solemnly as I made the statement before, that for a railway which may or may not be beneficial I should be very sorry to give up the privileges of the country, its free government, its right of self-taxation, its right to appropriate its own revenues and to place it under a load of taxation from another province. I would have been recreant to my duty to the people if I did not for the sake of destroying a scheme fatal to their interests, use every effort to impede one of its essential parts. I only hope that the road will be built, but if Canada alone is able to build it, as has been asserted, why did she not step forward years ago. We might have had it in 1851 or 1862 only for the bad faith of the Canadian Government. If Canada could borrow the necessary money, how was it that she was struggling with in a year to borrow at eight per cent.? True, her bonds have gone up in the market, and well they might, in view of the fact that she is about to get the control of the more prosperous revenues of the Maritime Provinces. Deprive Canada of the revenues which she will get from us, and her bonds will go down again, not perhaps to the same point as before, because it must be borne in mind that the bonds of all the Colonies of the Empire rose simultaneously when money became plentiful and cheap in the market of the world. It can be clearly shewn that the money to be drawn out of the treasury, and out of the people by Confederation, would under a Canadian tariff in a few years more than pay the entire cost of the railway. Assuming the cost to be three millions, and that that sum were borrowed at four per cent.,—our revenues would enable us to