

driven to appeal to his name as an argument to show why he is right and his adversary wrong, he must feel that his case is weak. I will show how frail his memory was. He said he addressed a letter to me, and before handing it to me, he put a date to it. The letter bears no date at all. That shows he is liable to err. His memory has failed him often and often in many material points. I could say a great deal, but I forbear. I wish to speak respectfully of the representative of Her Majesty, but he is a man like ourselves, and we should have fair play and justice from him. In regard to this Delegation, I do not know when it is to be sent, but from indications which I see around, and from what I know of the necessities of Canada, I think it will not be long before it goes. I know the Government of Canada cannot last long as it is. The Legislature was not called together. Why? It was not called together because Confederation was not passed in this Province, and that Government was like a rope of sand unless Confederation was carried. I speak, feeling that my voice will be entirely powerless; still, I feel it my duty both to myself and country, to express my views. I know that the Legislature of Canada was postponed from time to time, and their Government undertook to dictate to us when our Legislature should meet. The necessity of Canada has given birth to the whole scheme, and I can prove this by her leading statesmen, Mr. McGee and others. This measure did not emanate from the British Government, but they have approved of the Scheme, and are committed to it.

When I examined this resolution to appoint delegates, I found in it what, to a certain extent, relieved my mind. I believe Prince Edward Island will not come into this scheme of Union, neither will Newfoundland. By the terms of this resolution, the delegates, unless met in London by other Delegates from all these Provinces, will have no power to make an arrangement. Unless this delegation be full they have no power to act. This is intended by the mover. It is not necessary to argue that if you delegate men to act with other men representing other interests, their power ceases unless met by those they were appointed to meet. This Quebec Scheme was prepared upon the assumption that all these Lower Provinces are to come in. It has been said that the interests of these Lower Provinces are identical, and they would unite for the protection of the interests of the Maritime Provinces. If Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are not embraced within this confederation, the arguments are weakened and fail.

because the influence of the Maritime Provinces is reduced to that extent. Therefore I am glad the Government have said they are unwilling to go into confederation unless all the other Maritime Provinces enter into Union at the same time. That is the only interpretation that can be put upon the resolution. It is not necessary for me to argue that point, for any person will understand that if an agent is appointed to act with other agents, that agent can not act without the other agents acting with him. Unless the House restrain these delegates when they proceed to England, we will have the Quebec Scheme upon us. No doubt but it will be the authors of the scheme who will be sent, and these gentlemen have declared that if they get a better scheme they will take it, if not they will take the Quebec Scheme. As they have made this declaration before going there, do you suppose the Canadian politicians will give them a better when they know they will accept the present? If you want to buy a farm you will not say to the owner, if you will not take £450 I will give you £500. The delegates have been telling the people, that under the Quebec Scheme the Lower Provinces have a decided advantage over the Canadas, how then can our delegates ask for better terms than the terms which they have said gave them such an advantage over the Canadas. If we are going to have confederation, we should do everything we can to obtain a scheme that will be an advantage to the Province and not a destruction to it. If this confederation is to be accomplished, I shall move a resolution restraining the power of these delegates, which, I think, will commend itself to the favorable consideration of a majority of the House. If the desire of the Government is to obtain a good scheme of Union, they will not object to receiving instruction from this House. If the delegates proceed to England with these instructions given by this House, and the Canadians find that the delegates have no power to consent to a Union, unless that scheme embraces certain provisions necessary for the country, they, rather than not have confederation—for I know their anxiety for it—will make those concessions. If our delegation goes home without those instructions, you agree to the scheme, believing it to be a good scheme, and you need not seek any amendment. Then, when this Union is brought about, how utterly this Parliament will fade away. It will not be worthy of the best minds of our country to come here, for this Assembly will dwindle down to a mere municipality. I trust I may be mistaken, and that the

great interests of the country may be advanced; but these are my views. I do not believe there are ten men here who will not resign their seats at once if confederation is carried. Whether I shall make any effort to go to Ottawa remains in the future. It has been no advantage to me to be a member of this House, but, on the contrary, it has been a pecuniary loss. I have been a member of the House for fourteen years, and one-half of that time has been given to the public for which I have practically received nothing. There are others here who have given their time to the public without receiving an equivalent. My hon. friend Mr. Kerr has never received a dollar; what object can he have in continuing a member of a Legislature which would have no more to do than the corporation of the City of St. John. He would not remain here an hour. I shall feel it necessary to express my views upon the action of the Legislative Council. I predicted from the beginning that this scheme was prepared with all the elements necessary to give it vitality. Out of the Legislative Council there are ten members to go to Ottawa. We all have our ambitious feelings; if fifteen of the members of this House were to be provided with seats at Ottawa for life, do you not think it would have an influence upon the vote of this House? We know that personal interest blinds the eyes and warps the judgment, and the person under its influence is not conscious of it. There is no doubt but that the deliberations of the Legislative Council have been influenced by the fact that ten of their number are to be appointed to seats in the Legislative Council at Ottawa for life. That makes ten vacancies for ten hon. members of this House, if those seats are worthy of their ambition. This is part of the machinery to facilitate the passage of the Scheme through the Legislature. It was agreed at the conference at Quebec that it was to be passed through the Legislature without any appeal to the people. (Cries of no, no.) Whether there was a positive agreement I know not, but there was an understanding that it was to be done if practicable. (No; no.) Why then have they attempted to do so in Nova Scotia? Why did not they proceed on the same principle there as here, instead of pressing it through the Legislature without any appeal to the people at all? Did they enter into an agreement different from the line of action to be adopted by the Delegates in this Province? You would suppose they would act unitedly in the means and agencies employed to work out their purpose. Therefore I consider that if they had thought it possible to put that measure through our Legislature they would have done so. I shall take the liberty