

will not take any ground that may tend to foment any differences that may exist in Canada, but to pursue such a course as will cement us all into a great and united people. He says that the late Government did not intend to submit the scheme to the people. They clamoured for the delegates to go to the people, and when this was done, the cry was reversed, and the charge was made of cruelty to the people, to make them go about in the frost and snow and cold. But I think the time was not inopportune; the people were mostly at liberty, to give their attention to the subject; there was no pressing duties from which they had to be taken to go to the polls, but it was a time when they could best spare their time and labour.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—My hon friend seems to desire to make me say that it was cruelty and oppression to submit the question to the people, but I say it was cruel to do so in the winter, at that most inclement season.

Mr. McCLELLAN.—In the course of his remarks I heard Mr. Galt's speech, and inferred from it that Mr. Tilley, in his address, was not actuated by proper views, and had taken ground he should not have done. I notice that the hon. President of the Council has changed his views with regard to that gentleman. In 1857 he lost his election, and the hon. President of the Council was placed in the opposition, and in a speech he then made in this House he eulogized Mr. Tilley, who was then standing in the gallery, as he was the other day when the remarks of the hon. President of the Council were not so flattering. I mention this merely to show that people's minds change.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—People change too.

Mr. McCLELLAN.—He referred to Mr. Galt's speech at Sherbrooke, and in reply to that I have an extract from a speech of Mr. Dorion, who is on the same side as the hon. President of the Council, which I shall read to shew his opinion of the scheme, as giving to New Brunswick a great advantage over Canada, in a financial and commercial point of view. Mr. Dorion opposes the scheme because the people of New Brunswick get the best of the bargain. The hon. President quotes Galt's speech at Sherbrooke, to shew the origin of the movement, which proves nothing, unless it be that to remove a social or political evil existing amongst our Canadian fellow-colonists without at the same time injuring ourselves, forms an objectionable feature. Surely the hon. member ought to attach great weight to the arguments of Mr. Dorion, who, like himself, has the patriotism to oppose British interests, and Colonial progress. A fellow-feeling ought to make them co-incidental in opinion, if not wondrous kind to each other. Another objection taken was, the Bills framed by the local Legislatures would be liable to be disallowed by the General Government. I do not see the point of this objection, as our local bills may now be disallowed by a power further off, and whereas in the General Government we should have representatives to explain and support them, in England we have none at all. Then another objection was, a large expenditure of money would be made on canals in Canada. It is evident, however, that this is entirely dependent on the state of the finances; it is not made a basis of the scheme, but a subject for future consid-

eration. It may be found necessary to extend the canals of Western Canada, but the lines would all be taken away, and we should not look upon Canada or New Brunswick, but upon one great united country. The hon. member has further said that our voice will not be heard in Canada; but taking our representatives in both branches our voice would be something after all, and then we shall have more there after a while, for our increase of population is 8 per cent, while that of Lower Canada is only 2 1-2 per cent. And then there is no danger of our being swamped by Western Canada. How has it been in the United States? Where does the population centre and increase most? Is it not on the sterile sea coasts? There the manufactories arise, there the mechanics and artisans congregate, whilst the great and fertile interior is given up to the pursuits of agriculture. The hon. President of the Council further said that our railway would, before long, be likely to pay 6 per cent interest, and it would be folly to give this up. He must think the country is improving very fast, and that the population is also increasing. I want these delegates, who go home, to tell them in Downing Street the truth and the whole truth, to tell the views of the people of this Province, and the measures used by the Antis to carry out their purposes. Tell them that in the Upper House there is a large majority, men of the highest respectability, who are in favor of this scheme. I do not know how they regard this branch of the Legislature, but I think they deserve the thanks of this people. Today I learn that the third Government Bill this Session has been laid aside by that body. There was the Banking Bill, the result of twenty years study, summarily disposed of; then the Treasury Note Bill, that wheel-barrow steam engine, double-back-action, money-producing machine, is thrown out, as it ought to have been, and now the Post Office Bill, that was to move the office to St. John, and save so much money to the country. I want the delegates to tell them that that House has a large majority in favor of Confederation. The hon. member says our railroad is good to give up, but he says nothing of the value of public works in Canada. He does not speak of their 234 miles of canals, costing \$16,000,000; the Victoria Bridge, costing \$10,000,000; the lines of railway, 2000 miles; their navigable lakes; their 4000 miles of telegraph, &c. &c. &c.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—Does the hon. member mean to say that the railways in Canada would belong to the General Government?

Mr. McCLELLAN.—Let me get through. I wish to say that these are all great public works in Canada in which the people have an interest. Another remark was about the Conference being carried on with closed doors.

Mr. McCLELLAN has quoted from "Gizot's Life of Washington," to prove that the Convention engaged to prepare the Constitution of America, held their consultations with closed doors.)

But we need not look to the United States for a precedent, the same thing is done in all countries when any change is considered requisite in the form of the Constitution, and the hon. President of the Council would have had closed doors too if he had been a delegate. And if it be wrong to hold secret sessions on matters of this nature, why not have the doors

of the Executive Council thrown open, so as to let the people know all that is going on? Now about the bearing of the Union on the country financially. My friend Mr. McMillan has taken that up and treated on it at length. Mr. Dorion thinks New Brunswick would get the best of the bargain, and so I regard it. But this is not the most important part of the Scheme. We should be all fellow-colonists, and if one man gets a few more cents than another it is not worth talking about. In the consideration of such a question as this, I hold that taking into consideration the deductions that will be made, that we shall have enough to carry on the General Government without taxing the people more than a few cents a head more, and this is not worthy to be thought of when we look at the great principles of trade and defence relying upon it. These are of higher magnitude and more worthy of the attention of statesmen. I think that even without the Intercolonial Railroad, it will be shown that we should have the best of the bargain, yet when we remember that we are to get over 200 miles of this road built through the heart of our country, it is sufficient argument against any cry of taxation that has been raised. It may do at election times, and people may be influenced by it for a time, but when they learn that the amount we are to pay for a Steamer on the North Shore is about as much as our share of the interest on the amount that would carry on the work of the road, they will change their views. The hon. member for St. John spoke of the remarks he made at the dinner given to the Canadians at Stubb's hotel, where he said that they need not interpret the feelings of the people of the Province as favorable to a Union by the demonstrations with which they were received; but did he not go on to say, what is stated as a fact, that he further observed that we must either have Confederation or Annexation?

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN.—I did not say it.

Mr. McCLELLAN.—It was so reported, and I did not hear that it had ever been denied, or that it was susceptible of denial. But now Confederation is to be killed, and we are to have a Western Railroad to assist in carrying us into the United States. I am not averse to Western Extension, but I do wish to have the Intercolonial road, when it can be built at so small a cost.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—Where will Canada get money to build?

Mr. McCLELLAN.—Where is the Government going to get money to carry on public works now, the Banking Bill is defeated? I might go on to speak of the influences brought to bear on our electoral franchise, and our little country, not larger in proportion than many towns in England, while with the smaller Provinces the same still more applies. When there are so few offices, and so many to fill them; when there are so many members in the Government, and each waiting to be a general, it shows that we need a larger House; where everything of a general interest to the Colonies could be discussed without party or money interests, and be carried out on the plan of the English Government, which has been found to work so well. The hon. President of the Council referred to the four corners of the Constitution. I don't know exactly what that means, nor how it is made up, but perhaps it may be that one is the Military corner in the person of the Hon. Attorney General; the Social corner represented by the Hon. Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works; Financial corner, per-