

I believe that our late Conservative Government wished, if possible, to induce the Imperial Government to force us into Confederation; but of the folly of such proceedings the British Government have had enough in what has since transpired in Nova Scotia. But notwithstanding the foul libels heaped upon the people of this Colony by the late Government, the Colony has maintained her reputation and her independence.

Mr. BRECKEN —

If the Tenant Union was pursuing a right and proper course, why was it that it crumpled up so suddenly, when Her Majesty's troops came here? The men, Sir, whom I blame the most are not the body of the people who united themselves with that organization, but their leaders. Those men knew that Her Majesty's Despatch made it unlawful to resist the just claims of the proprietors. They knew that her troops did not come here to enforce obedience to unlawful demands; and no man, who duly respected the honor and good nature of the country, would have justified the action of that organization at that time. I may be told that I am slandering the Tenant Union; but will the hon. member (Mr. McNeill) rise here, and propose a resolution that will justify the one adopted by that body, which said they would hold no communication, except in cases of necessity, with any person who would not support their organization? Let him bring such a resolution forward, and I will call him a patriot, though a misguided one. Let the hon. member give notice of this on the Order Book, and then we will see where his political malignity rests. I do not glory in the unfortunate state of affairs, which called forth Mr. Dodd's letter; on the contrary, I regret it as much as any man in the country, for I know there is a good deal of truth in what the hon. member has said, but at the same time, had that hon. member and the League with whom he was associated, had their own way at that time, they would have done more to have forced us into Confederation than any Government could. Before Responsible Government was granted to us, it was doubted whether we were able to work it out successfully, and to duly prize the privileges it would confer; but the only time when any portion of the people showed that they did not appreciate it, was when a portion of them were led by that hon. member. Responsible Government was granted on conditions which were binding upon us and upon the Home Government; and at that time the Home Government might justly have said to us, you have not adhered to those conditions; you do not appear to be a law abiding people, and we will wash our hands clear of you by sending you over to Canada. Let the hon. member read the Bloody Despatch as carefully as he has Mr. Dodd's letter, and he will be convinced of the truth of what I say. It was not to support the Liberals that the hon. member was sent here by the League; for if that was their object, why did Mr. Ross oppose the Leader of the Government, after he had accepted office?

Hon. Mr. HAMILTON: The