

Cartier, and Dr. Tupper, made a similar statement in their respective Provinces.

Mr. McMillan.—A compliment has been paid to me by the statement that when the matter came before the Council I was the one to stand out against its not being submitted to the people. But I now state that there was not a dissenting voice in the whole Council. The Hon. Chief Commissioner has said that when he was in Canada he found that they would not agree that the Intercolonial Railroad should go by any other route than by the North Shore, and that this was decided in Nova Scotia and in England.

Hon. Mr. HATHEWAY.—While in Canada, I heard that the Duke of Newcastle had told Mr. Tilley that no line would go within 15 miles of the river Saint John, as it was not considered safe in case of difficulties with the United States.

Mr. McMillan.—I never knew that any particular route was decided on; I thought it was to be left to England to decide. I wished, very naturally, that it should go by the North Shore; but I did not know it was settled on. Then, it is said, there were a good many disappointed politicians who expected to go to Ottawa; but I will not say anything about that. Now for the hon. member for St. John [Mr. Wetmore]; he delivered a speech that, from the style of its delivery and its beautifully rounded periods, must have been thoroughly prepared. If iniquitous, it is the imputing of all manner of motives, are arguments against Confederation, then his speech is unanswerable; but if the point is that Confederation is commercially, financially and politically disastrous, then his speech is a great failure. He took up the Coles' Island Bridge, Mr. Watters' election as Mayor of St. John, and how the would-be Mayor was caught in a trap, and money interests at elections; what have these to do with Confederation? But another point that he seemed to imagine was most convincing was the export duty from Canada. It appeared to be very funny, but it had little to do with the question before us. I will now only make a few general remarks in conclusion. I have referred to the history and experience of the United States, and the efforts they have put out to sustain their union, but we, in our wisdom and with our population of 250,000, repudiate any such idea as union. Instead of bringing a charge against our public men, that they aspire to be Governors of Provinces and are actuated only by selfish and wrong motives, the idea ought to be fostered and encouraged. This charge came first from the hon. President of the Council, and it has been echoed by his satellites all over the country; but it should not have any influence in such a question as this. Then what has the Government now to depend on to raise the resources of the country—what is there but lumber to depend on? But in Confederation we should not be so dependent as now; if lumber fails, we could fall back on the crops of Canada, and the Provincial Secretary would not have the difficulty he now experiences in making up his budget. I feel that I am not able for this great matter; but, having been associated with a man who, although charged with being a "conspirator" and as using a "hidden hand" to work out his designs, has yet an intellect and financial abilities that would fit him for a high position and do honor to any land, I feel called on to speak out in his behalf. It may be said that those in favor of this scheme are subject to "cramping," but that is not likely to

deter me from my purpose. I regret he is not on the floors of the House to raise his voice in answer to the opponents of this measure, then there would be less said than there has been on this question, and the hon. President of the Council might again decline to enter into an argument with him.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—Now I wish to say, once for all, that I did not refuse to enter into an argument with Mr. Tilley. That gentleman, I believe, stated that he challenged me to speak at Lingley Hall, in St. John's, but it was thus: I received an invitation from the Secretary, but he stated that I should not be allowed to speak. When the statement was made that I had refused to meet Mr. Tilley, I wrote to the papers—both the *Evening* and the *Telegraph*—that it was not true.

Mr. McMillan.—I took my information from the papers, but it is no matter. Now for the resolutions—what are they? I have no hope that any thing I may say will change the views of any one on the floors of this House. They state that an election has taken place—that an appeal has been made to the people—that they have decided against Confederation—that they know every attention will be paid to the expression of the people, and then, in the face of all this, they ask that a delegation be sent home to tell the people of England all this that they already know as well as we do. There are intimations that in Canada, in Nova Scotia, and in this Province there is some "hidden hand," and yet they do not lay their information before the House. We know that Confederation will not be forced upon us, and yet we must send men home to ask that it be not. Suppose they go, the Imperial Cabinet will ask—"What is your business, Mr. President?" "Oh, we hear that there is some underhanded work going on, and we came over to let you know that we have decided against Confederation." This would, certainly, be very satisfactory, and well worthy of the expense to be incurred. I am opposed to the Resolutions.

Hon. Mr. GILLMOR.—I claim to be a good listener, but have no pretensions to being a good speaker. I have listened attentively to the speeches made upon these resolutions. The hon. ex-Surveyor General has made several long speeches; he has now made a sort of general reply to several hon. members, so I shall not attempt to follow him;—their speeches will appear, and the public can judge of the arguments. He asks me how I feel? In reply, I beg to inform him that I am quite well, both physically and politically; and if we can succeed in getting a few matters set right on the other side of the water, in reference to Confederation, all will be well. I do not think it important that the question of Confederation should now be fully discussed; it has been ably handled, both through the press and upon the platform, and the people in this Province have given their verdict, and it has been so decidedly in condemnation of the scheme that a wayfarer man, though a fool, need not fail to understand. The friends of this scheme had it in their own hands, and managed it in their own way; and yet, was there ever a question upon which the people of this or any other country spoke out more plainly, and gave a decision more conclusive? The hon. member for Albert says, this question of Confederation is not new. I have been a member of the Assembly for ten years, and neither I nor any other member ever heard it discussed in this Assembly. I remember to have read a discussion had

between the Hon. Joseph Howe and, I think, a Mr. Unisack, some ten years ago, and occasionally Judge Wilmot has alluded to it in some of his speeches; and, except occasional allusions of this kind, it is new to the people, and not one in a hundred of the electors knew anything about this until after the delegates returned from Quebec. This scheme had its origin in Canada; their necessities called for it, not ours. An idea of this scheme was communicated to the leading politicians of the Lower Provinces, and they went to Quebec and held the Conference. I shall make no reference to the constitutionality of this delegation, but I do know that the people did not send them. Now, if there is any class of persons that are calculated to impose upon the people more than another, it is the makers and vendors of quick medicine. These doctors went there, and in the space of seventeen days they prepared what I call a quick medicine; having got it prepared, they next had to return and make the people feel that they were sick. They might have labelled it, "health and comfort for all;" so they told them that they were financially distressed and commercially depressed; that they could not get along or expand unless they took this medicine. So they went to work recommending the panacea, and some of the people soon began to feel sick, but many began to ask how much the medicine was going to cost. If you look into the scheme, you will see a medicine fixed up for all the politicians; they had certain ends to work out, and so they put into this medicine a large amount of *Soothing Syrup*, and this was especially intended for the *House of Lords*; and it had its effect as forcibly upon men as it does upon children, as recent events have proved, and they expected it would so operate upon all the people. This matter was argued out by the candidates upon both sides, and in Charlotte County the Confederates had an advocate, who, for eloquence and fluency, was not inferior to the ablest advocate in this Province; and yet, in a constituency of some 3,200 voters, I do not think there were more than 600 out-and-out Confederates. In this I may be mistaken, but that is my opinion. The arguments in favor of the scheme were vague and indefinite. They said our young men were going away, and this was going to keep them all at home; adopt this, and no fond mother was ever to weep for an absent son, and no tender lover was ever again to part from his sweetheart. The people, however, had no idea it was going to produce such results; in Charlotte, this question on, at least, was fairly tried. During the ten years I have been in politics, I have given the late Government my support; and, although I have voted against some of their measures, up to the time of the last prorogation I would not have voted against them in a direct vote of want of confidence. Now, if this Confederation scheme was as old and so good, why was it never discussed upon the floors of this House; during that long term they had not discovered that we were such an insignificant people and that our resources were so limited. On the contrary, they were continually telling us that we had vast resources, and were all right, both politically and financially, and it was a favorite expression of one of the delegates, "that he had an abiding faith in the people." I do not know exactly what he thinks of that now. When the late Government came into power ten years ago this Province was really free from debt. It was