

would send those who took a more real interest in their welfare, it would be better for them, and he could assure them, that they would find no indisposition on the part of the government to meet their views.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL had no doubt that the Prov. Sec. was not pleased with his style of opposition—he would probably prefer having more loose fish about the house.

Mr. ARCHIBALD would suggest to the Chairman of the Fishery Committee that instead of taking \$150,000 to cut a hole at this end of the Bras d'Or Lake, he should take the money, and stop up the other end and thus make it a valuable reservoir for the preservation of fish.

Mr. LOBIN said perhaps the trouble with the member for Guysborough was that he was not sufficiently supplied with bait, and he had been fishing with bare hooks.

Mr. LOCKE said the subject had been so often discussed that it was not worth while to take up any more time. At the same time, it was not right to treat it in a *scaly* way. He always felt that, while the subject of agriculture received a great deal of attention from the house, the fisheries, which were of as much importance, scarcely received any attention at all. As regards the trawl fisheries, the evil complained of existed more in reference to the deep sea than the shore fisheries, and it had been established that we had no control over them.

Mr. PRYOR thought that if the government would give a grant for the improvement of the fisheries, no money could be better expended.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. asked whether the question of payment of supervisors of river fisheries had been considered by the committee.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that a bill had been passed to carry out that idea, and supervisors had been appointed, but he believed their duties commenced and ended with drawing their salaries.

Mr. PRYOR said the sessions of Halifax county had taken the matter up very warmly, and had voted £50 to pay the river wardens.

After some further remarks, the report was received and adopted.

The adjourned debate on the Union of the Colonies was then resumed.

## UNION OF THE COLONIES.

### Speech of Mr. Archibald.

Mr. ARCHIBALD, in rising to second the resolutions upon the table of the house, said:—I feel that after the great length at which the hon. Pro. Sec'y has adverted to the scheme of Union propounded at the Quebec Conference, it will be out of place for me to go very largely into detail, and I shall therefore content myself with calling the attention of the house to some matters to which he did not refer at great length. That hon. gentleman, in order to convince the house that he and those who acted with him in the advocacy of this question of the Union of the Colonies, had ample authority for the course they pursued, had referred to the public meetings held from time to time, in this city, and to the recorded opinions of the public men of this country delivered at different times in favor of the project. He might have gone farther and stated that, at no meeting of a public kind—at no public gathering—and upon no occasion, when a public man ad-

ressed an audience in favor of Union, had there ever been found a dissenting voice against it. If then this could be taken as any evidence of the state of the public mind, I think that the advocates of this measure had a right to assume that the feeling of the country was largely in favor of Union.

But while the hon. Provincial Secretary has alluded to the public opinion of this country, I will remind the house that there is another public opinion on this subject, which cannot be ignored. A public opinion which must, and has a right to exercise a powerful effect upon the decision of the question—I allude to the public opinion of the statesmen and people of England. This opinion, too, has undergone a great change. It must not be forgotten that till the occurrence of recent events the circumstances of the past have not been such as to induce British statesmen to look with much favor upon any large or general Union of her colonies. The last union that took place, and to which the attention of British statesmen has naturally turned had the effect of wresting from her power thirteen of her most valuable colonies, which formed the brightest gem in the diadem of the British crown.

We can easily understand then how they would be inclined at first to regard with doubt and disfavor any projected combination of all the British North American Colonies. It was not to be wondered at then, that when this subject has from time to time been brought to the notice of the Imperial authorities by colonial statesmen it received little encouragement. So late indeed as 1857 when delegates for this province pressed the subject upon the attention of Mr. Labouchere, the then colonial minister, it was quite clear that the smaller union of the Maritime Colonies would have been preferred by the Imperial authorities to a union of the whole. And it is very probable that had the position of affairs on this continent remained the same as then, the feeling of antagonism on the part of the mother country to a general union of the British North American Colonies, would have been continued to the present time. But let me contrast for a moment the changed aspect of affairs, and it will be readily seen why it is that such a revulsion of feeling has taken place in the public mind—across the water—upon this question. Four years ago, when British statesmen looked to America, they saw thirty millions of people engaged in the arts of peace—the cultivation of the soil, the construction of railroads and canals—the building of cities—the creation of manufactories, and development of every branch of art and industry. In fact the reign of materialism appeared to be firmly established, and the rule of the “almighty dollar” supreme. British statesmen then, in view of these circumstances, had a right to assume that in the absence of any great and unexpected convulsion among these people, they had no reason to anticipate difficulties or complications with them. But now, how changed was the scene—that great nation once devoted to the arts of peace, had suddenly been turned from a nation of farmers, artisans, and merchants into a nation of soldiers. That nation now had in the field the largest armies the world ever saw, and had increased their naval strength more rapidly than any other nation in the world. And instead of the spirit of peace—the *juar* spirit pervaded the whole country.