

duty to myself and to my country require that I should reply. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. Secretary should have striven to combat my arguments rather than to have entered into personalities. I said nothing to call for his singling me out almost by name, and making me the subject of an attack. In the late election I scarcely referred to any one thing by name, but all his speeches have been directed to the impugning of my motives. Now, if this was the question, he would like to ask the hon. Provincial Secretary if he was not influenced in his labors by a desire to go to Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. TILLEY—No, I do not think I am.

Mr. SMITH—Yes, Mr. Speaker, you see he can't say he is not so influenced, there is the reservation—I do not think I am. He is not prepared to say in a straightforward manner that such motives have no effect upon him.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY—I know, Mr. Speaker, it is hard for a man to know himself, and, therefore, I replied in that guarded way.

Mr. SMITH—Now, I don't say he is thus influenced, but he attacked me, and he says I am the worst politician in this country. Well, in return, I will say that he is the most ambitious and unscrupulous. He has some qualities that I much admire. He is certainly persevering in his efforts to bring about that which he desires, but he is not particular about the means. He said he was willing to get better terms than the Quebec Scheme, but did not leave the impression that they would be had. Did he not strive to prove that it was a perfect Scheme. The Speech he has made here will be read by the delegates from Canada on their way to England, and what will he say to them, and how will he meet this people again if the Quebec Scheme be fastened upon us? But I must do honor to the hon. member from St. John, who, although he will cast his vote on the opposite side, has yet taken up and treated this subject on broad and philosophical views. He has acted in a bold, manly, independent manner, and has done himself infinite honor. The matter should have been submitted to us. It is not before us. It is on the Journals of last year, but we can't retrace our steps and look at it. The Secretary tells us—in a manner unheard of before—that he cannot tell this House what terms they will ask, as somebody may get hold of it in Canada, and thus defeat the measure. Is this not political fraud and concealment? Is it not clear that they are willing to carry a Scheme against the will and wishes of a majority of the people of this country? The hon. member for York said the Scheme was no perfect, but he did not tell us his objections to it. He says that young men are

going away, so they are, and others are coming here. This is only natural. Man is restless and roving, and we get men from England, Ireland and Scotland, but we don't hear anything about them. The Provincial Secretary quoted from the Journals to show that an offer of Union had been made us in 1858. But let us see his reply. Here is Tilley against Tilley.

MEMORANDUM OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE.

To His Excellency the Honorable J. H. T. MANNERS-BUTTON, Lieutenant Governor, &c., &c., &c.

The Committee of Council have had under consideration the Despatch of the Governor General of the 9th inst., containing the Report of the Executive Council of Canada, on the subject of a Federation Union of the British North American Provinces.

The Council are deeply impressed with the importance of the subject, requiring, as it does, the most deliberate and mature consideration.

The British North American Provinces have each attained a great degree of material prosperity under their present Constitution; and the increased power of self-government recently conferred on them, has left nothing to envy in the political condition of the citizens of the neighboring Republic.

This is true; the country has gone on with great rapidity. But the trouble with the Provincial Secretary is that he is too ardent and sanguine. His imagination paints things in very bright colors, and he is apt to believe it is all real. For example, he introduced some years ago the Prohibitory Liquor Law, and he told us that if it was carried it would entail blessings on the country. Well, it was carried, and the result proved that the Secretary's predictions were all wrong, for not only was the country thrown into two elections, but I believe there has been more drinking since as the consequence of that law than ever was before. Now he says I never introduced any great measure; well, this is one of the great measures brought forward by the Secretary. Then there was the Inter-colonial Railway. He made an arrangement with Canada to build that road, and went to England on a delegation to consummate the whole affair, and when he returned he told us that Messrs. Howland and Scoote, the Canadian delegates had broken faith, and there was the end of that matter. These gentlemen think they are not guilty of that charge. All that time I was Attorney General, and on that question I resigned my office. He says I am opposed to Railways. That is not the case; but in the matter of incurring large liabilities I am, and have been very cautious. He says I show great inconsistency in my

action and statements. Now in 1862, I said that the Railway was costing £200 a day, and that every passenger cost £5. That was a fact, but is that any reason why at the present time I should not look forward to its paying six per cent. Is there any inconsistency in that? Now I will read what I did say in my resignation in 1862.

"RESIGNATION OF HON. A. J. SMITH.

"FREDERICTON, Oct. 10, 1862.

"Sir: The delegates representing the Government of this Province at the Convention recently held in Canada to consider the subject of the Inter Colonial Railway from Halifax to Quebec, have undertaken, on behalf of this Province, to build the railway conjointly with Canada and Nova Scotia, and to bear seven twenty-fourths of the cost of the work; and the Council have affirmed their action, and are preparing to take steps to give effect to the arrangement so made.

"This scheme is, in my opinion, fraught with consequences most injurious to the welfare and best interests of this Province. It involves a heavy charge upon the Province, which, added to our present indebtedness, will impose a financial burden which I think our population and resources will not justify upon any sound principle of political economy.

"A very important element in the consideration of this subject, in my judgment, is the fact that these works are to be constructed with borrowed for loan capital, the payment of the interest of which will be a never-ending drain upon our financial resources, which ultimately must have a most withering effect upon the prosperity and seriously retard the advancement of the Province.

"It should not be forgotten that the interest on the debt already contracted for our present railway is about £300 per day. The earnings of the road it may be fairly said are not more than sufficient to pay the running expenses, including wear and tear. The interest is paid abroad, and I am much mistaken if the effect of this has not already been highly prejudicial to the business of the country.

"Our present financial condition is by no means flattering, and will require the most careful and prudent management in order to meet local requirements and preserve public faith.

"The proposed enterprise if accomplished must largely increase taxation, which in my estimation the people are unable and unwilling to bear; our present tariff is as high as circumstances will warrant.

"My views on this subject may be erroneous, but I have given it the most careful and deliberate consideration, with a full appreciation of its magnitude and the importance of the step I am about to take. Under these circumstances I feel myself constrained by a sense of public duty to separate from my colleagues, and retire from the Government, and I now beg to tender to your Excellency my resignation.

The debate and House was here adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.