

tlemen to continue the debate, although not very well prepared at the present moment to address the house, rather than that time should be wasted, I shall take advantage of the present opportunity to offer the few remarks I intend to make upon the subject now under discussion.

In the first place I shall refer to the observations made by the hon. Pro. Sec. on Thursday last upon a subject analogous to that now before the house. He challenged the accuracy of the statement I then made that seven-eighths of the people of this country were opposed to the Confederation scheme, and asserted that so far from that being the case, at least that number were in favor of it. Now, sir, if he believes that to be the case—pledged as he is by his action at the Quebec Conference to carry out the scheme—why does he content himself by laying on the table of the house a resolution which asks the house to go back to the policy of last year—in favor of a union of the Maritime provinces—and declares that the larger union is impracticable?

Voting, as I did, last year for a resolution similar to that now before the house I should be prepared to maintain it now, were it not for the observations of the hon. Pro. Sec.—reiterated by the leader of the opposition—that he regarded this as a stepping stone for the larger union of the British North American Provinces. Believing, as I do, that the effect of a union with Canada would be to deprive us of our present *locus standi*, and to make us a mere dependency of that Province, I feel compelled, holding these views, to vote against the resolution, and I do so, as I have said, principally on account of the remarks made by the two hon. gentlemen I have referred to. Now, sir, I think the house will agree with me that the speeches which we have listened to from the hon. Pro. Sec. and the hon. leader of the opposition have had very little connection with the resolution under discussion. Scarcely a word has fallen from their lips upon the question of a union of the Maritime Provinces. As regards that union I may say that I am not opposed to it, provided that it can be effected upon terms favorable to the province; but I am most decidedly opposed to it as a means of accomplishing the larger union. We have been told that the views of Mr. Howe, Mr. Johnston, and Mr. Young were all in favor of union. Even supposing that this was the case, I do not see why their opinions should be binding upon us. They have passed away into a different arena—whilst here they reflected the opinions of their constituents—we are here now in their places, not to carry out their views, but to represent the feelings and the interests of the whole people of Nova Scotia. Before alluding to the financial aspect of this question there are one or two matters to which I shall briefly refer—one is in connection with the loss of privileges which will be entailed upon the people of this country by the adoption of the scheme of union. The right of being taxed, only through the action of their representatives has always been considered one of the dearest privileges a free people can possess, and it is one that comes home to every man's mind. At present not a single penny of taxes can be imposed upon the country except with the consent of the representatives of the people; but what will be the result after we are annexed to Canada? What chance would 300,000 people

have against three millions—or what stand could the representatives of Nova Scotia make against the overpowering influence of the government of Canada? We would be in the position that we would have to submit, no matter how iniquitous the tax, or else be taunted as rebels. Now we have the glorious privilege of electing our own representatives and arranging our own tariff, and I am happy to say that so far we have done so in a manner that has redounded to the credit of the province and has doubled the resources of the country in the last few years. But what would be the consequence if this attempt to barter away our rights and privileges were carried out? Instead of as now—enacting our own laws, subject to the exercise of the royal prerogative—we would, by our own act, surrender to the supreme government at Ottawa the right of passing any laws, no matter how obnoxious they might be to our people, and we would be compelled to submit, or else be branded as rebels. Under the present system, if an act was passed which was not suited to the wants of the people, it could be repealed at the next session—but adopt this union, and we surrender to the Ottawa government all control over our legislature, and leave ourselves entirely at their mercy.

Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that no abler man than myself should be found to raise his voice against this attempt to barter away our dearest rights and privileges,—sorry am I that Nova Scotia's most gifted sons should be found to have entered into this unholy compact to destroy our political existence; but, sir, humble as I am, I should consider myself recreant to my principles, and unworthy of the confidence of those who sent me here, if I failed to denounce, feebly it may be, but to the best of my ability, this scheme, which I consider so detrimental to the best interests of the people of Nova Scotia. Sir, we all remember the old story of Esau selling his birthright for a mess of pottage, and how he afterwards regretted it with an exceeding bitter cry—but there was this to be said in excuse for his conduct, that he sold it when he was hungry, and at all events he received some return,—whereas the Province of Nova Scotia was not hungry, and the only return she would receive for the surrender of her rights would be a mess of bitter herbs, to be eaten in sorrow and digested in tears. We have been told that we would not be left without a Parliament—that the representatives of the people would be in the same position as when such men as Archibald, and Uniacke, and Haliburton adorned these halls by their presence. But it does not require much argument to prove that such will not be the case. They were the representatives of a Province having its own laws—its own tariff—the control of its own resources—while we will represent a dependency of Canada, with powers about as great as the Grand Jury and Sessions of a county. I do hope, if this scheme is carried out, for the credit of old times, and old associations, that the title of the representatives will be changed, and that instead of the time-honored name of M. P. P., they will substitute that of M. C. P., or Member of the Council of Puppets. I do not intend, Mr. Speaker, to go very largely into the financial question, so ably treated by the member for East Halifax (Mr. Annand), but I find that although in the main we agree, yet starting as we did from