

On the evening of the day when I first saw those resolutions, we were summoned to meet and discuss them for the purpose of carrying out the arrangements which had been entered into; after looking at those resolutions, I went in the next morning to the Executive Council and told my colleagues that I met them for the last time, and went home and wrote out my resignation; when I returned to Fredericton many of my constituents persuaded me not to resign. I was surprised that they should have known that such was my intention, for I had mentioned it to no one except my colleagues in the Government, altho' I felt I was doing injustice to the Government and myself, yet I remained because I felt it was a duty I owed to my country to oppose the Scheme. In regard to the Intercolonial Railroad, any prospect we may have had under the former arrangement would be swept away by this Confederation, for it would be the interest of Canada, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, to have it go by the North Shore route, and it was known in England and known by the Canadians that the line would be constructed by that route, and I would sooner it would go there than to be put through the centre of the country where nobody lives. Canada has a trade with the north part of the country already, and no party will remain in power that does not pass the railway through by that route. Let me ask my hon. friend from Restigouche, where is the survey of Mr. Fleming? Does he know why Mr. Fleming has not reported? Was it not promised that this survey should be published before the election? Why is it that his report is kept back? It is kept back for a particular purpose, hence it is necessary to move this resolution. It was attempted to be urged that there was no necessity for us to appoint delegates; that there was no necessity for telling the British Government that we were loyal. I find men occupying the position that Judge Haliburton does in England, charging the men and Government of this Province with disloyalty; telling the people in Halifax that the majority against Confederation in this country is only 400, and that something should be done to bring about a reaction. It was urged by the promoters of this Scheme, that we must go into Confederation to defend ourselves against the Yankees who were going to gobble us up; to defend ourselves against a nation who have proved to the world that no two nations are able to compete with them, while the advocates of the Scheme admit that Canada is the most vulnerable point, and that we were placing ourselves in a position that they could, under the Conscription Act, take our young men out of the country to fight her battles. We have never shown anything else but allegiance to the Sovereign; we have never burnt our Province buildings, or professed anything but respect for the Queen's representative. If they have got into difficulties let them protect themselves, and not call upon us to support them. If there was no other Section of the Scheme that would condemn it this Section would, which allows the Government of Canada to make any advance which they may deem necessary for the Militia defence of the country, and the debt would be assumed by the General Government. I was amused at the remarks made here that if the constituents had an opportunity to speak out there would be a majority of the people of the country in favor of Confederation. It might be so in the County of Albert, or the County of Resti-

gouche, where, I believe, one of my hon. friends was returned by 400 votes, and the other by 300. In those little counties influences are brought to work in regard to their mines and minerals, but after all they could carry but a bare majority, and this is no criterion to judge or base an opposition to this resolution. The Government expected to come in with a majority of no less than twenty-six. I say this question was not fairly tried, the Opposition had to contend with the promises of nine or ten million dollars that was to be expended in the country; these strong influences were brought to bear on the tradesman and mechanic. We, on the other side, could draw no picture of the future; we could not go out and tell the candidates to come out in favor of Anti-Confederation, and we would secure their seats; we could not go out and promise men that we would do this and that for them. It, therefore, comes with a bad grace for the other party to say that these elections were carried by side issues. I have heard it stated that the Scheme of Confederation was not tried at all at the election, but that it was rejected because the Government had made themselves obnoxious to the people. When I left that Government we were in a majority, and could have carried that measure—if Dr. Dow, Mr. Fisher and myself had been united—through the House of Assembly by a majority of twenty-two. When I hear it put forth to the country that the dissolution was caused in consequence of the necessity that existed, inasmuch as Canada and Nova Scotia were going to pass the measure, and time would be lost if we waited another year. When did that occur to the Government? If that was correct, then was the Government of which I was a member guilty of an outrageous fraud upon the public in the County of Northumberland, in issuing a writ for the return of one member. There was no such intention or determination on the part of the Government to dissolve the House. It was not dreamed of, until it was made known that I intended to resign. We were told that Nova Scotia was going to carry the Scheme by an overwhelming majority; Canada was going to carry it; and that New Brunswick would be left out in the cold. Why did not Nova Scotia carry it? No statesman there dare run the risk of losing his position by bringing it forward, in view of New Brunswick having rejected it. They had honesty enough to admit that they could not carry it. We were told that by the assimilation of our tariffs the people were to grow rich, and that we had no field for the operations of the mechanics, unless we went into Confederation; while the fact was, that Canada had abundance of every thing with which we could supply her; and we would have to depend upon her for all time to come for the necessities of life. Then it was said we would get the railway at one-twelfth of its cost; but was it not behind the scenes that it could not be built without going on with the simultaneous construction of the Canal system. It had to be built with our own money, but under the direction of the Government in Canada. If we believe that there are strong representations made to the British Government which might cause them to take action against us—is it not our duty to appoint a delegation to check that influence? In the report of a speech of a leading statesman in England, that the Scheme was rejected in Prince Edward Island, in consequence of religious disaffection, every one that knows the Island,

knows that it is not the case. The Government put forth all its influence to carry this Scheme. They told the people of Fredericton that in view of the Intercolonial railway coming near them, the seat of Government would be established there for all time to come, and they would derive advantages which no other County would; they had a great portion of the talent of the country in their favor. The delegates were men of great talent, and they had within their means promises of elevation to the other branch of the Legislature. I met in my canvass, letters calling upon men to vote for Confederation. If I have done no other service in opposing this Scheme than bringing out the talent of the late Surveyor General, which, but for this Scheme, would have remained hidden; for this I feel I am entitled to the thanks of the constituency of Restigouche. In the reply made to the mover of the resolution, he had evinced the ability of an able financier, and when the House knew that he had none to assist him, that his calculations made were purely from his own fertile brain, they were entitled to every consideration. If this Confederation Scheme had been carried, it would have brought our Legislature down to a mere municipality, and no man of any standing would have accepted a seat in it. It may be that there are influences to work, it may be that they are sincere in their motives, or it may be a desire to get back into their positions again. I would rather lose my position to-morrow than I would do an act which I believed would bring a stain upon the Legislature or a stigma upon the country which gave me birth. I am not prepared to give the people's rights to Canada, knowing their former history. We have nothing to gain by this connection, while Canada has every thing to gain; they could come into the Province and take thirty thousand seamen to man their boats. I am not going to say that our safety consists in our helplessness; but I believe that there is no more danger of the United States declaring war against New Brunswick than there is of our declaring war among ourselves. Heaven forbid that I should be an annexationist; yet, in any attempt to force this measure upon us, I could have my own choice which of the two evils to take. (Mr. Connell.—You would force others.) I would force you to remain where you are for the next three years, if my voice would help to keep down Confederation. I shall not take up any more time, but having made these few hurried remarks in reference to it, I shall take my seat.

Mr. McLELLAN.—I rise to reply only to that portion of my hon. friend's speech which has reference to the County of Albert. The Chief Commissioner has complained of the members attacking him in the House; we have done so because he was the only organ of the late Government in the present. Although there may be a great gulf between the present and late Executive Council, yet if there is any bridge over that gulf, it must be the Chief Commissioner himself. I have not attacked him unjustifiably, because in my remarks that have been made he has been generally the aggressor; he has on several occasions alluded to the influences which were at work in the County of Albert to secure my influence in favor of Confederation. At the last Session of the Legislature, a motion was made to appoint a delegation to confer on the Union of the Maritime Provinces; if he had