

federate; Fredericton, for instance, returned Mr. Fisher by an overwhelming majority. This change must occur wherever the question is fairly and temperately viewed and discussed. There is no use denying the fact that the time has come when we should unite; everything that is transpiring around us points to that result, I have not come to a hasty determination to support this resolution. This question is like a jug of yeast; it must go through a certain amount of ferment; but it will come out all right in the end. Mr. Howe, and Mr. Annand, who are now opposing this measure, would be the first to put their shoulder to the wheel and carry Confederation, if they could come into office to-morrow. Under these circumstances I do not feel disposed to stand in the way of a question that must come sooner or later. These are the convictions of my own mind. It is not because I feel disposed to occupy any preferment. If the House were dissolved to-morrow I should not regret if I went home and never returned to public life. I often wish I had never studied or paid any attention to political history; it only keeps a person constantly perplexed.

Let me here mention what struck my observation on a visit I paid to Canada last autumn. I travelled some 3000 miles and attended two Public Exhibitions. I was much gratified by what I saw of the great manufacturers. Some of the most delicate surgical instruments are manufactured in that province. Agricultural Implements are largely produced in the country. The cloth manufacturers are far beyond anything I had expected to see. I attended a ploughing match, and there saw some 102 teams enter for competition; fully 6000 persons were present. Never in the course of my life did I see such excellent work, but what surprised me particularly was the fact that I saw a host of boys discussing the merits of the ploughing. When boys took such an interest as that in ploughing, I thought there need be no fears as to future agricultural operations in Canada. Whilst in the Province I mixed as much as I could with the people, for I wished to learn all I could about Canada's industrial resources, the intelligence of the people, and especially her fruit culture. When persons found I was from the Lower Provinces, they would ask me, "What are you afraid of? Why do the Lower Provinces oppose the Union with us?" I must say that from what I saw of the Agriculturalists they are a very desirable class of people to associate with. Under all the circumstances I cannot think we have any reason to fear a union with the flourishing province of Canada. On the contrary I believe that Nova Scotia will be largely benefitted by the consolidation of all the Provinces of British North America under one government and under the protection of the British Empire.

SPEECH OF MR. KILLAM.

MR. KILLAM said: I rise to deliver to you a message, not from the Lieutenant Governor, not from the Legislative Council, not from the Colonial Secretary; but from 16,000 of the loyal inhabitants of this province whom I have the honour of representing in this Assembly.

They are closely identified in interest and feeling with the inhabitants of the other portions of the Province, are known far and wide, as well as in this country, for their industry and enterprise, were the first pioneers in one of our great industrial pursuits—one that has done more to elevate our position and make Nova Scotia known far and wide than any other. This Message is sent to me by these. To protest in their behalf against a Union of this Province with Canada, believing as they do, that such a measure will demoralize the people, alienate their affections from Great Britain and endanger British institutions—transfer our revenues into the hands of strangers, disarrange financial affairs, and jeopardize our local improvements. We, as the oldest colony of British North America, have enjoyed a Legislative Assembly for over one hundred and Responsible Government for 20 years, with full liberty to levy and appropriate taxes; and to deprive us of these privileges, as proposed by the resolution, they believe to be most unjustifiable. In making these statements they do not arrogate to themselves any superiority over other counties. They acknowledge the claims of all other sections to consideration, and are proud that this is our common country. It is with pride they remember that they can claim as their own one of the ablest statesmen that ever stood on the floor of this house, to watch over the interests of the people of Nova Scotia. He did not come here, like our leading men of the present day prepared to destroy, but to improve the constitution we now possess, and not to hand over this Province to another country, irrespective of the wishes of its people.

The arguments that have been advanced in support of this resolution shew that the scheme is more one of theory than of practice. The argument which they have most labored is this: that it is necessary to unite with Canada in order to ensure our common safety. Every body admits that numbers are strength; but those numbers must be in a position to assist each other. If you have a large territory, exposed at all points to danger,—just as Canada,—separated from you by a great tract of country, you cannot expect assistance from it. Its union with you does not bring strength, but weakness.—If you are to have trade, it must be in a position to afford it.—If we look at the map, and see the configuration of British North America, you can recognize how absurd are the arguments of the advocates of Union. Nova Scotia has no natural relation whatever to Canada.

(Mr. Killam here pointed out the relative positions of Nova Scotia and Canada on the map, and contended that neither in defence nor trade would we gain any benefit by union.)

Between us and Canada extends a vast tract of desert country.—If you look at the water communication, you see how roundabout it is, and unsatisfactory as far as trade relations are concerned. In winter the St. Lawrence is closed for five months, and the communication must be made either by the United States, or over the uninhabited waste lying between New Brunswick and Canada. We cannot expect any assistance from that country in case of war, for the nature of its territory, running along for many hundreds of miles by the frontier of the American Republic, requires that all its forces should be kept at home for their own defence. In case of a war with the United States, therefore, no troops can come from Canada to our aid.

In case of a Union we could give no aid to Canada except in a financial point of view—by the revenues that they would draw from us. Separated from us as it is, it is folly to suppose it could be otherwise. When in 1783 Great Britain gave up the old colonies which she had settled on this continent the great mistake was that they had not all, including Canada,