

delegates or not—that is for them to say, and the responsibility rests on them. It has been said that the delegates obtained better terms for Nova Scotia at the recent Conference than were allowed us before,—if such be the case the Opposition are entitled to the credit; if there had been no opposition we would have had the Quebec scheme. That scheme, however, allowed us certain privileges which we do not now possess. We were to have been allowed to raise a revenue by some other means than direct taxation, and that privilege has been taken from us. Last winter we had before us a bill which was to have put our mining operations in such a position that we would lose the power from that time of levying a tax on coal, but it was a hard bill to get through the House, its passage was not accomplished; but the delegates have effected the same purpose in the conference at the other side of the water. In this connection I could not help thinking of another bill pressed upon us last year by Mr. Archibald; the bill to impose an income tax. The friends of this bill were likewise unsuccessful, but perhaps they mean to accomplish their purpose by leaving us without sufficient revenue to carry on the local departments, and by taking from us all other means of obtaining a supply for the treasury. As regards the allowance to be made to us by the general government it is true some advantage has been gained. But the day is not far distant when we may have a population of 400,000, and that population will go on increasing until by-and-by it will reach double that number, and yet we will receive no more money.

It may be said that in this respect Nova Scotia is served as the other Provinces are; but I think it would have been wise to have arranged a sliding scale, whereby the revenues could be raised in accordance with the increasing necessity. We will find the arrangement a poor one indeed when our people number 800,000 or 1,000,000, and have so paltry a sum out of which to meet the public wants. One of the delegates gave us this afternoon some observations upon the prosperity of Nova Scotia as regards her shipping, and the decrease of that of the United States. We know that from the beginning of the war the shipping of that country decreased not only from privateering, but by vessels being transferred to the British flag. I do not think that in the statistics that were given allowance was made for the shipping under the flags of foreign nations that will go back as soon as circumstances are favorable. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, I think that the prosperity of the American marine is not so small as it would seem. It is true that we can build two ships in Nova Scotia for one in the United States, but one of their ships when built is worth two of ours. Taking everything into consideration, I think it is apparent that the Union will be consummated—that we are to try a new state of things; but as I have already said, I feel relieved at hearing that the British Parliament acted under false information, and I am convinced that if the truth had

been known, an opportunity would have been allowed us of saying whether we consented or not to unite our fortunes with those of the other Provinces.

Speech of Mr. Tobin.

MR. TOBIN said:—I have so often spoken on on this question that I feel it is quite unnecessary for me to address the House to-night at any great length. It will be remembered that when this subject was under discussion during the last session of the legislature I was so indisposed that on the last night when the division was taken I was scarcely able to utter a word. While that subject was under discussion, neither the leader of the government nor any supporter of the government knew which way I was going to vote. I have advocated, however, this Union since I first entered public life. Indeed I have advocated it even before I had the honour of a seat in this House. I believe that I was mainly instrumental to the bringing forward of the resolution which was moved by Mr. Howe in 1861. At public meetings in this city, in Windsor, in Kentville, in Truro I have addressed large audiences, and received from them the kindest attention. After a fair discussion of this question, I have invariably found the people of this country in favour of Union. On every occasion when I came before the electors of the city of Halifax and of the Western division, I advocated a Union of the British American Provinces. I have been sustained at three elections—at two by large majorities, and at the last without opposition. So far as I am personally concerned I assume all the responsibility of my position, and I advocate this Union because I believe it is for the best interests of British America. I believe that the time has come when we must enter on a new state of political relations with each other. Look at this House, to-day are we not actually bursting our shell? Is there room for the hon. gentlemen who come here from the different counties? See how the desks are crowded into the lobby. Therefore, I say, we have outgrown our condition, and require expansion. We must do like the Massachusetts man: when the village becomes too large he emigrates to the West. We must look to the great West which opens before us and cultivate trade and intercourse with its people.

We are taunted with endeavoring to take away the privileges of the people, and transfer them to Canada. What is the fact? We give 19,000 square miles, and get in return 400,000 square miles. If we transfer our revenue to Canada, shall we not have a share in her revenue? All the revenues of the Provinces are to be put into a common treasury for the benefit of all. Each county of Nova Scotia now contributes to, and gets a share of the treasury of Nova Scotia. In the same way each Province will contribute to, and obtain a share of, the general treasury of the Confederacy. What is the first object to which our common funds are to contribute? 'Tis the Intercolonial Railway, which is going to bring the whole of the great West immediately into connection with us—to distribute merchandise from one end of the Confederacy to the other. Let me turn your attention in another direction. Who are the men in this house who have voted to refer this question to the British Go-