

be kept up directly or indirectly as it has been done. Statements have been put forth by the press that we will have to come into this Confederation, because it will be forced upon us. We ought to express an opinion in this House, and endorse that by a delegation confirming that opinion that they never need hope to carry Confederation in New Brunswick, and I think we would save money in the end by so doing.

Mr. McMillan.—It is amusing to find the Anti-Confederate party asking for this expensive delegation, in order to set themselves right before the people of England. It shows that they are not satisfied with the position they hold in the eyes of the English people in reference to this question. What were the arguments put forth by the members of the Government, and the leading members of the Anti-Confederate party in reference to the appropriation of money for the Militia? They said it would be a waste of money so far as defence was concerned, but they stood in an unfavorable position in the opinion of the British public, and to prove their loyalty they voted the people's money for this purpose. They are not satisfied with asserting that two thirds of the people are against Confederation, but it becomes necessary to appoint another delegation to make known the fact, for they feel they are not in a right position before the British public. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Costigan) said that the more the people discussed this question the more unpopular it would become. My experience is right the reverse of this; the question came upon them so suddenly, and so few months elapsed before they were required to vote at the polls, that they had not time enough to form a correct opinion upon the subject, and the general tendency of the people, when they do not understand a question, is to vote against any change until they do understand it. If that question was submitted to the people to-morrow, and the people were required to deposit their votes in the ballot box, either for or against it, two thirds of the people in the Province of New Brunswick would vote in favor of it.

Mr. NEEDHAM.—The hon. ex-Surveyor General wants to know how this scheme would ruin us, politically. What would we have been had Confederation taken place under this scheme? Would we have been a Province? certainly not. Or, it is said we can have a local legislature; so we could, and its powers would be confined to making laws to prevent cows from running on the commons, providing that sheep shall wear bells, and to issue tavern licences. Hon. members may talk about their loyalty and disloyalty. I would like to ask some of the members of the late Government whether their idea was not this—that they would not have gone for Confederation if they had not believed that it was the first step towards the independence of New Brunswick. (Mr. McMillan—it is not true.) I have no hesitation in saying that thousands of men believed in Confederation, honestly and sincerely, but they do not seem willing to give us any credit for sincerity; they think they have all the argument, all the honesty and all the loyalty. We have now a direct communication with the Home Government, as they appoint our Governor; but if we go into Confederation our Governor would be appointed by the Governor General; that would raise our dignity very much, to have a local Governor

appointed by the Governor General; would not that be derogatory to our political standing, both at home and abroad. I heard a Judge, in addressing a Grand Jury, in the County of York, strive to impress upon their minds the necessity for this "Great British Nationality," as he termed it. *Great British Humbug!* I should like to know where there is any nationality in this Confederation scheme that we have not got now. We are "*par excellence*" Bluesnoses; those born in Ireland are Irishmen, in Bath Englishmen, in Wales Welshmen, but we are all British subjects. Are not we British subjects as much as if we were born "Cockneys." We have the real British nationality, and because we did not want any other we rejected the great *Botheration* or Confederation scheme, for it all amounts to the same thing; thus it is that so far as politics are concerned we are not going to gain anything. I will now show you that it will be financially disastrous. We will have to give up all our revenues to Canada, and they will only refund \$201,000. (Mr. McMillan, will not they assume our debts.) We are prepared to assume our own debts. Canada has to borrow money to pay the interest on her own debts, and then wants to assume ours. It is like a bankrupt wanting to assume the debts of a rich man. The General Government will give us \$201,000 a year for all time to come. That is, financially, the position we are in. No matter how much the population may increase in twenty years, or how many new roads, bridges or schools may be required in that time, we can receive no more than that sum. If a man had a million dollars a year, and he owed the sum of five millions, and had plenty of friends to back him, do you suppose he would want to make arrangements with another man to take his debt and give him just enough to live on until he died. If he would do that he would be a fit subject for the Lunatic Asylum. It was enough to condemn the scheme, that this delegation assented to the proposition that whatever arrangements made between Canada and the Home Government from that time to the time Confederation went into operation should form part and parcel of the obligations to be assumed by the General Government. At that very time England had said to Canada—what are you prepared to do in reference to your own defence? Did she say that to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island? No! Why? Because she knew from the history of the past that these colonies would when the time arrived; they would be ready at a moment's notice to gather round the British flag; but there was a time in the history of Canada when it was otherwise, and there was a necessity for asking the question of Canada. At that very time Canada sent home a delegation charged with a power to agree with the British Government to expend a million of money for their defence, to be borne not only by Canada, but by all that Confederation. There would be a direct tax upon every man, woman and child in this Province, to pay their proportion of that money. When I saw that agreement I felt as every son of New Brunswick ought to feel, that if it cost me my life, my all, Confederation should never be carried if I could help it. It has not come. I do not say I stopped it, but if I was but one little entering wedge I am satisfied for the remainder of my life; so far as

that is concerned I have done my duty, and am sincere in my opposition, and it is a matter of moonshine whether they acknowledge it or not. Canada has sent home a delegation to influence the British people in favor of this Confederation. I do not say that this scheme is going to be forced upon us, but they may pass a provisional Confederation Bill, but we do not want that or any thing to look like it. Forty-eight thousand men in this Province have said we don't want Confederation, and that should be an end of it. They have said this, notwithstanding all the influences that have been brought to bear by the Government, telling them the Intercolonial railway was going past every man's door, whether he lived at Fredericton, Sussex, or the North Shore. Statesmen in framing a scheme of this kind should look forward to future ages. In this scheme of Confederation, fifty years hence, Upper Canada would have a majority of thirty-five over all the other Provinces! This is the position we would be in, and we are called to pay homage to the statesmen who framed this scheme, as though they possessed all the wisdom in the world.

House adjourned until 9 A. M., to-morrow.

T. P. D.

WEDNESDAY, May 31.

Mr. BOYD.—I thought this subject had been so well ventilated that we should never hear any more about it, but since the matter has been brought in I suppose it has been considered necessary. The first thing I heard of this Union question was the appointment of delegates to confer at Prince Edward Island, on a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces. It seems they went there and commenced their deliberations, but some gentlemen from Canada came down, pooh-poohed at the idea of such a Scheme, proposed a larger Union, to embrace all the Provinces, and that was the last of their mission. Next we find them going off to Canada without any power from this Legislature, or any other. They met, but it was impossible to find out what they were doing; after a time they returned, yet nothing was known as to their proceedings. This attempt at secrecy roused the public feeling, and the press clamoured for information. At last it all came out by a paper in Prince Edward Island publishing the whole Scheme. When I read it first I was somewhat favourably impressed by it, but as I read on and came to the Section which provided that the Governor General should have the appointment of the Governors of the Lower Provinces, I said at once, then the last link that binds us to England will be broken. I went on further and found that New Brunswick was to be represented in the General Parliament by only fifteen members, and I then felt that we should be swamped by Upper Canada. The fact was Canada found herself overwhelmed with debt and wanted to get the support of these Provinces to relieve her, and so we were to be bought and sold for eighty cents a head. Our people had been content with their position, and if they ever desired a change, it was that we might enter into a Union of the Lower Provinces. Then came the dissolution of the House at a time when the people were little prepared for it, and for the first time in the history of the Province we find men who had occupied the highest positions in the Government jumping the country, to carry their Scheme. But they could not make the