

its extension to the Maritime Provinces and the North-Western territory, as the basis on which the constitutional difficulties now existing could be settled.

There were thirty-four who voted for this motion. Five declined to vote either yea or nay, and among these is the name of the honorable member for Cornwall. (Hear, hear.)

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—It is laid down that "he that is not with you is against you." (Hear, hear.) I will tell you why I did not vote. I did not charge my honorable friend from South Oxford with deceiving us in anything. He said he had a paper in his hand which contained the basis of the arrangement. He may have told us the whole of it, and I did not say it was his intention to mislead us. But I was not satisfied, notwithstanding the excellence of his memory, that he should come with a document in his hand, and, instead of reading it to the meeting, undertake to give us verbally the substance of it. I did not like it at all; and when I refused to vote, it is clear I was not in favor of it.

HON. MR. BROWN—Did you say anything against it?

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—I expressed my opinions to my friends around me.

HON. MR. BROWN—Did you address the meeting against it?

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—There was no use in addressing the meeting—there was such a rush to carry it. (Laughter.) Now, Mr. SPEAKER, my honorable friend the Hon. Attorney General West, in his usual style of addressing the House, after evading the real point in discussion—that of the propriety of referring this matter to the people—went off on another tack, and on several tacks. I never witnessed a more excruciating lashing than he administered to the honorable member for Peel. He ridiculed the whole of the honorable gentleman's motion. But he administered one consolation which, no doubt, the honorable gentleman found to be palatable. He said:—

There is one thing after all—though my hon. friend from Peel is mistaken in every particular—though, notwithstanding his constitutional lore, and ability, and eloquence, and everything which constitutes a statesman, he has done everything wrong—yet there is one thing he has done right—he has inserted in his motion the words "constitutional mode."

These words have in them a peculiar charm in the estimation of the Hon. Attorney General

West, who ought to show us where he has found, in the practice of the English Parliament, a scheme of this kind introduced, then he might say that the honorable member for Peel is wrong; but when he brings in a measure that is at variance with English principles and practice, then I think we are at liberty to try to find ways and means for submitting it for the approval of the people. If it is parliamentary usage for the Government to come down to this House, and, with the assistance of their political supporters, suddenly to change our Constitution, and take away our liberties, then, forsooth, are we not to take our own course as to whether or not we shall ask that their measure shall be referred to those who sent us here? The Hon. Attorney General West scouts the idea of our being delegated only to work under the Constitution that we have. He forgets that when we make laws under our Constitution, we can change them ourselves at any time; but when we make a Constitution, and have it ratified by the Imperial Government, it does not lie in our power to change it by a simple resolution of this House. He dwelt strongly on his belief that we were the representative men of our constituencies, and that through us the people had a voice in this House. Well, if we were legislating for ourselves, and for our own people, under our Constitution as it stands, then I admit that we would be fully justified in carrying out any scheme that we might deem essential for the welfare of the province at large, or for any portion of it; but when he carries that principle so far as to say that we ought not to vote for having a measure of this kind—which will affect other provinces as well as our own—referred to the people, then, I say, he carries the principle to a most unwarrantable length. (Hear, hear.) What can he advance in justification of such a course? He talks about it being unconstitutional. Why, they understand constitutional law in Nova Scotia, or ought to understand it as well as we do. But when we point to Nova Scotia, Ministers tell us that that province does not make laws for us.

HON. MR. MCGEE—They don't know half as much.

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—Well, the Honorable Minister of Agriculture has been down there, and it is a pity that his lectures and essays have failed to afford them all needful instruction. (Laughter.) At all events, they seem to appreciate the position in which the Conference at Quebec has placed them. But