

people of Canada to the delegates from the Maritime Provinces."

I merely refer to this to show the first statesmen in these Provinces, who were nominated by the several Lieut. Governors to meet at Quebec to confer, not for the purpose of taking away the liberties of the people, and for the purpose of acting tyrannically in the matter, but for the purpose of considering a union that would be for the good of all the different Provinces, and we find by the Colonial Secretary's despatches that the course pursued by them met with the highest commendation of the British Government and people. It is said Her Majesty the Queen and her advisers desire to force upon the people of this country a union which will take away their liberties. This is a direct charge against the British Government and against Her Majesty the Queen. Although there are but few in favor of this union in the House, yet I am happy to know that throughout the country there is now a large majority in favor of it. The hon. member for St. John (Mr. Cudlip) talks about rebelling; is that a proper position to take, because a change of opinion takes place? In reference to this subject not having been discussed in the Legislature, I can say I always was of opinion that the Government was wrong in dissolving the Assembly before this question was discussed. Before the dissolution of the House I took no part in this question on account of my health, being unable to leave my room the whole winter, and I would not have been in my place now only that I considered the question of such vast importance to the country. If this question had been fully discussed in the House, the people of the country could not have complained that the question was not fairly settled. As it was the people did not give a fair expression of opinion upon it. Those opposed to the scheme took advantage of the prevailing opinion among emigrants from the old country of the unfairness of the union between England and Ireland, and argued that because that union was the means of depopulating and bringing a tax upon Ireland, the same state of things would exist here if we entered upon this union. It was argued that it would bring a tax upon every thing they had, and finally they would lose their Parliament, which would be carried away to Ottawa. Was not this unfair to represent these things in the most odious light and circulate them where they would have most effect, in order to alarm the people. The President of the Council says how very convenient it was for the Government to state there would be twenty-four seats in the Legislative Council at Ottawa for the members of the Legislative Council in the Lower Provinces, and this would have a great influence upon their votes. That may be the opinion of the hon. member, and it may be the opinion of those who are anti-Confederates, but it may not be a correct opinion after all, for they have always been characterized as an independent class of men. The President of the Council has also discussed the great bug-bear of taxation. I believe, under the arrangements made by the delegates, we would be in a far better position than we are now; under that arrangement we would have had the Inter-colonial railway built at a cost of \$14,000,000 or \$15,000,000, of which we would have

to have paid but the one thirtieth part, we would be relieved of our debt on which we now pay about £90,000 a year interest, and would have a large amount of money at our disposal for our roads, bridges and schools, and other local purposes, then we now have.

House adjourned until 10, A. M., to-morrow.

T. P. D.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 2.

Mr. CUDLIP resumed.—The minority in this question of Confederation have been denominated "conspirators," and it has been said that they are using "secret influences" to force it yet upon the country, that there is a "hidden hand" at work. What, I would ask, is the object of sending a new delegation to England? Is it to overcome the action of those who, though defeated and in the minority, have still a greater influence over the English mind and the English Parliament than those who hold power in the present House? Is this the "hidden hand" spoken of? They were not afraid to submit the question to the people of this Province, and dissolved the House that no other issue than this great question might be before the people's minds. That dissolution was called for by the hon. President of the Council, although he now condemns the late Government for it. And who brings forward this resolution? Is it not done at the instigation of the Government? If they are convinced that the interests of this country are in peril, why not take the responsibility of appointing this delegation upon themselves? It is said that owing to the dissolution this resolution has been found necessary to bring these resolutions forward. It seems something very extraordinary that at this late period of the session, when hon. members are all anxious to get home, that another week should be given to debate this question, and all to justify the Government in appointing a delegation to go to England to tell the Imperial Parliament that we are still a loyal people. It has been put forth here and elsewhere that there was no authority for the action taken by those in favor of Confederation. But I think the despatches of the Secretary of State have settled that question, and he, it is to be presumed, is pretty good authority; he says it was done "with the sanction of the Crown." But I want to say a few words on these "conspirators." I have here an extract from a speech made by a gentleman, who is a French Canadian, and who was said to be concerned in the difficulties in Canada some years ago. It was said that the people of Canada at that time were guilty of rebellion, because they stood out for certain rights which they supposed they had, and the leaders were termed "rebels." But the people of England have seen that the rights claimed were just, and two who were charged with being leaders of that rebellion have since received much honor, and Her Majesty has seen fit to reward them, and their conduct has been justified more I think than the professed loyalty of Anti-Confederates ever will be. One of these, Sir H. LaFontaine, has gone to his rest, the other, Sir E. Tache, who in 1812 shouldered his musket in defence of his country, and was appointed Aid-de-Camp to Her Majesty, is still living, and giving his influence and energies to the forwarding of this great Scheme. When the Scheme was first

brought forward, as the Hon. President of the Council knows, I regarded it with disgust, but the fact that it would give us the Inter-colonial Railway, and on terms which were most favorable, my mind became convinced that the Scheme was good, and this impression has become stronger the more I have looked into the matter. One honorable member has said that an insignificant body in St. John—the Chamber of Commerce—was at the bottom of the whole affair, as they invited the Legislature of Canada to come down and visit us. If this is the case, then the hon. mover of these Resolutions (Mr. Cudlip) must be regarded as one of the "conspirators," as he, I believe, was the President of that body. But I think the term applied to such men as the Hon. John Robertson and Lauchlan Donaldson, Esq., men of the highest respectability in this Province, and who are leading members of that body, is unjust and uncalled for. At that very time when the Canadians were with us, in those festivities of which we have heard so much when men's minds were not in train to say and do the things they would, the same hon. gentleman who now charges those favorable to Confederation with being "conspirators," said that "we must have a Union of these Colonies or drift into Annexation."

I will now read the extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Cartier, Attorney General of Lower Canada, now in London as one of the delegates who have gone home from that Province. He says:—

"I, however, avail myself of this opportunity of remarking that if we in Canada take our share in the defence of the country, that will necessarily involve a great expenditure; but I may add that you need not fear what you have been told will happen—an increase in the duty on the goods imported from England into Canada. (Hear.) Assertions to that effect are not warranted; and as they are causing a great deal of mischief, I am glad of the opportunity of making the statement that there is no foundation for them. (Hear, hear.) It has been stated in speeches in both Houses of Parliament, as well as in certain newspapers in this country, that since Canada is so vulnerable it would be better for the security of England that Canada should be left either to assume a position of independence or to be annexed to the United States. ("No, no.") We understand in Canada that a cause of war can scarcely arise from ourselves. War in Canada must arise from an Imperial cause. We understand that we are vulnerable; but we are willing that our country should be the battlefield in order that the honour of England may be vindicated. (Loud cheers.) We have no desire to be independent of this country, and still less have we any desire to be annexed to the United States; we have no desire to become a portion of the American republic. (Cheers.) Such an idea we view with horror—(renewed cheer)—but from Her Majesty's speech on the opening of the present session of Parliament we know that our scheme of confederation is approved by her Majesty's Government, and by the sense of the English people. (Hear, hear.) Subsequent proceedings have shown that it has the approval of both Houses of Parliament, and we feel that, under such a system, we can aid England in any struggle she may have with the United States. (Cheers.) If the fallacious argument prevailed that, because the defence of a particular colony was likely to become expensive to the mother country at a particular juncture, that