

in favor of the measure. (Hear, hear.) I am told that the hon. member for South Wentworth (Mr. RYMAL) made a statement to which I would call his attention—as I certainly did not notice that he made it—while addressing the House. I was remarking that I had not heard one member from Upper Canada declare that a large majority of his constituents were not in favor of this measure, and I was told that the hon. member had stated so with reference to his constituents.

MR. RYMAL—I did not say whether they were or were not in favor of the measure. I believe there is a great diversity of opinion among them.

HON. MR. BROWN—Ah! Well, Mr. SPEAKER, we have two hon. gentlemen, one in this House and one in the other, who have just come from their elections—one from the city of Hamilton, situated in the county (South Wentworth) represented by the hon. gentleman (Mr. RYMAL), and the other from the Legislative Council district, which includes the constituency of the hon. gentleman (Mr. RYMAL)—and both of them declare that they have not the slightest doubt as to the feeling of their constituents—that it is strongly in favor of the measure. I repeat, then, that I have not as yet heard one hon. member declare that his constituency was opposed to this scheme.

MR. RYMAL—With reference to the testimony of the hon. member for Burlington division (Hon. Mr. BULL) and the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. MAGILL), permit me to say that I know more of the South Riding of Wentworth than either one of those hon. gentlemen. Neither of them has ever had the confidence of the electors of South Wentworth. One of them was in a minority there, last fall, of 300. The other tried it some years ago, and had not the shadow of a chance.

HON. MR. BROWN—That may be true. But the hon. gentleman should have stated this also, that Dr. SMITH, the opponent of Hon. Mr. BULL, declared he was in favor of the general principles of this measure, and that if the details were satisfactory, he would go for it. So that in fact both the candidates for that constituency, including the whole of Wentworth and the city of Hamilton, declared in favor of the policy of the Government.

MR. RYMAL—I beg to say that I have heard Dr. SMITH say—not once, or twice, but

on different occasions—that he did not believe this scheme would work well.

MR. A. MACKENZIE—That was the reason of his defeat, I suppose. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. BROWN—It is quite possible that he may have said so since his defeat, but I can only say that I conversed with Dr. SMITH myself while he was a candidate, and heard a very different opinion from him. But I think it ill became the honorable gentleman to speak so disparagingly of the testimony of gentlemen as to the feeling of the county, simply because they were not strong in a particular contest. When he remembers how hard a fight he himself had at last election, and that he was only elected by a very small majority, he was hardly in a position to throw discredit on such a score on the statement of hon. gentlemen who have just come from the people, and, after putting the measure fairly and squarely before the electors, have got an almost unanimous verdict in its favor. The hon. member for Hamilton polled an immense majority, and it was not right for my honorable friend to indulge in a sneer because he may have been in a minority on a previous occasion. (Hear, hear.) Mr. SPEAKER, I might detain the House much longer in replying to what fell from honorable members who have spoken during this discussion. But I do not desire to keep the House from the vote. I would simply appeal to the members of this House, that if ever there could be a case made out for action—immediate action—it has been made out with reference to this measure.

HON. MR. HOLTON—After its rejection below?

HON. MR. BROWN—That does not affect us.

HON. MR. HOLTON—It affects the possibility of immediate action.

HON. MR. BROWN—The hon. gentleman will soon know whether or not we can get immediate action. He must recollect, that although the New Brunswick elections have apparently gone against Confederation, there is still a considerable number of members returned there in favor of Confederation, and that there is another large party who are not opposed to union, but only object to some of the details. And there is this to be considered also. It was presented there in a very different light from that in which it comes before us. We have been considering this question for many years. There