

the subject of a union of the Maritime Provinces, the words used, as I recollect them, were a "Legislative union," and you do not find that the people of those provinces desired a Federal rather than a Legislative union. In the correspondence laid before the House on the subject, I think that the words used are those of a Legislative union. You do not find the words "Federal union" in it; and I think that is the kind of union which those gentlemen who desired the best interests of this country ought to have striven to have had. But because some fifteen or sixteen gentlemen, who patched up this Constitution with so many discordant elements in it, did not choose to give it to us, is no reason why we should not have it. All that we desired was that we should have a strong government, and they should have been satisfied to have gone on with the government of the country without any change. (Hear, hear.) But hon. gentlemen who were brought together in this Coalition had said so many hard things of each other, that it was found necessary to make people forget these by putting before them some great scheme, and I hope it will be a lesson to the Hon. President of the Council not to say such hard things of people in future. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

HON. MR. DORION—MR. SPEAKER, I do not intend to discuss the motion proposed by the honorable member for Peel; I merely desire to explain to Lower Canadian members that the object of that motion is to ask that any measure passed by the Imperial Government may not be put in force in Canada without being submitted to the people of this province. Those who are of opinion that the Legislature ought not to pass a measure of such importance—which is nothing short of a revolution in our Constitution—those who consider the measure of sufficient importance to induce them not to ask England to carry out that revolution without consulting the people, must vote in favor of this motion. (Hear, hear.) Even supposing that the people were in favor of Confederation, it would still be of great advantage to submit the question to the electors. The question is not yet understood. The newspapers have said, on the one hand, that it was a good measure, and on the other that it was a bad one; but in reality there has been no serious discussion, and it is perfectly clear that the people are not yet acquainted with it. (Hear, hear.) Members of this House undertake a very

serious responsibility in voting for this measure without consulting the people; and the advantage of an appeal to their electors—even supposing the result to be favorable to the scheme—would be to relieve them of that responsibility. (Hear, hear.) And if the measure be neither understood nor approved of by the people, you run the risk, by voting it in that position, of creating prejudices which would perhaps be removed by discussion. Therefore, in the interest of the measure itself, as well as of honorable members of this House, it ought to be submitted to the people before it is finally voted, and for my part I shall vote for the amendment of the hon. member for Peel. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. EVANTUREL—I should like to ask my friend the honorable member for Hochelaga, and all the honorable members of the Opposition, who constantly repeat that Confederation is now defunct, and that we have nothing more to do but to bury it, why they desire to submit it to the people? I fail to see the necessity, if it be true that the scheme is already defunct. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

HON. MR. DORION—My answer is, that we desire that it should be submitted to the people, in order to shew that it is unpopular. The hon. member thought to place me in a dilemma, but he was mistaken. He thinks the measure will be passed in England as it stands at present, and it is to avoid that contingency that we desire an appeal to the people.

HON. MR. EVANTUREL—No, no.

HON. MR. DORION—The hon. member for Quebec is then in hopes that it may be amended?

HON. MR. EVANTUREL—I do not believe it will be passed in England as it now stands.

HON. MR. DORION—Well, if it can be amended in England to our advantage, it may also be modified in a contrary sense. But that is not the question. I say that we ought to submit it to the people, in order that if the verdict should be favorable to the measure, it may go to the Imperial Government with the sanction of the people and of Parliament; and if the people are opposed to the scheme, the delegates must not be left in a position to say that public opinion in Canada is favorable to the measure. (Hear, hear.)

MR. DENIS—I believe, MR. SPEAKER, that the fears of the honorable member for Hochelaga are entirely unfounded. In order that an appeal to the people may be of use,