

them. However, having fought the battle he was now willing to lay down arms, accept the situation, and lend his assistance to make the new constitution successful. (Cheers). He came here unpledged, but was willing to give it a fair trial, and would judge the Ministry on their merits, irrespective of party. He was happy to see a disposition in the House to treat the Lower Provinces with fairness. All they asked was fair play. He thought it premature to join in congratulations on this measure, and exceedingly unbecoming for Government to ask them to join in congratulations who had been so opposed to it. But now it was passed, all should unite to consolidate the constitution and make it work successfully. He objected to the manner in which Confederation had been carried. No organic change should take place in the constitution of any country without the approbation of the people. He regretted very much the retirement of Mr. Galt, of whose financial abilities he had a high opinion, and was happy to find he (Mr. Galt) would give the Government his support. The Government ought to take advantage of his retirement to reduce the number of departments, and thus reduce the expenditure. In conclusion, he was highly gratified at the courteous manner in which the members from the Lower Provinces had been received. Any measures the Government might bring up, which are for the best interests of the Dominion, he would support.

**Mr. Stewart Campbell**, said he never rose to speak under greater embarrassment. Though a member of the Bar and the Legislature of his own Province, yet he stood overpowered with an amount of awe, mingled with respect, not because he feared to give utterance to his views, but because appearing as the representative of a constituency which had honoured him with confidence unsurpassed for unanimity, he came here to vindicate their interests. After further prefatory remarks the speaker proceeded to refer to his own position in relation to Confederation. In the Legislature of Nova Scotia he had maintained an attitude of hostility to Confederation, and in justice to himself he would explain the grounds of opposition. It was well known to his own Province, and to some extent here, that his hostility was mainly based upon the manner in which the scheme was pressed upon the people. He had not canvassed—his constituency was aware of his acts; he was elected by acclamation. He told them from the hustings that as the power in which he owed obedience had decreed the new Constitution, it would be his duty to go

[Mr. Smith (Westmoreland)]

to Parliament and endeavour to extract the benefit and attack the evils of the change. He must declare his hostility to any attempt at repeal. He had accepted the situation. He believed that success in the attempt to secure repeal would be fraught with much greater danger than its failure (hear, hear). He regretted that his honourable friend beside him (Hon. Mr. Howe) had taken an opposite course. He would rejoice if his (Howe's) powerful voice had been with him in making the best of the existing situation. He (C.) should take the course which his own judgment had dictated, however much he regretted differing from his friends. He should look favourably and hopefully to the future under a wise and economical administration. He should therefore refrain from any hostile criticism on the subjects embraced in the address, and in taking this course, he felt that he was justified by his sense of what was right, and was prepared to stand by his decision (prolonged applause.)

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

#### AFTER RECESS

**Mr. A. W. Savary**, said this was the first time he had appeared in a Legislative Assembly, and came here unwillingly, because the people of that Province had been forced into Union. He and his friends did not come here to discuss Confederation, that must be fought, and had been fought elsewhere. Because elements of discord existed in Canada, weakening the old Constitution was no reason the Constitution of Nova Scotia, which had worked well, should be subverted. He argued that the present Constitution, while pretending to be of a Federal nature, was open to all the objections of a Legislative Union, and complained of the extended powers of the Dominion Legislature. In the Province of Nova Scotia they had a banking system, and none of their banks had failed. Here it was different, and was admitted on all hands that the measure of last Session had caused failure, and his Province would be subjected to the same disaster. The tendency of this Constitution was to absorb all the power. He would not so much have objected to interferences in national affairs, but most of their domestic matters were invaded. Nova Scotia was prepared to all its duties of defence, and every other, but he felt the interests of that Province would weigh but little in this Assembly, because of its small representation. They could not congratulate His Excellency, because of the adoption of a Constitution con-