

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Tuesday, November 12, 1867

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

**Mr. Mackenzie** resumed the debate on the Address. He said that on rising to address the House on this occasion, he felt fully sensible of the responsibility resting upon him as a member of this great assemblage, as one belonging to the principal Province of the Dominion—superior in numbers and wealth, and possessing the Capital of the Confederation. He felt that it devolved particularly on the people of Ontario to act the part of hosts towards their Lower Province brethren, and to extend to them all a hearty welcome, and that candid and just consideration which was most likely to cement their future relations, and to produce that spirit of harmony which must prevail amongst them, if they were to live together and prosper as a nation. Looking upon the Confederation measure as the triumph of those principles for which, as a humble member of the Reform party, he had long contended, he could not but join in the congratulations on its achievement, and it was with emotions of deep regret that he was compelled to witness a cloud still hanging over the measure, as regarded the eastern portion of our Dominion. He trusted, however, that by their joint efforts they might yet be able to remove the causes of discontent and dissatisfaction in that Province. Mr. Mackenzie then referred to Mr. Howe's statement last night, that he had felt it to be particularly unkind, that his Reform friends in the West should have been found arrayed in an attitude of oppression towards Nova Scotia. On their behalf, he repudiated both the intention and the act, and said that if there was blame anywhere, it rested with the legislature of that Province which had given a direct sanction to the course pursued in England by the delegates. He proceeded to advert to the present position of parties in the legislature. He contended that the conflict of parties was necessary to the success of representative institutions, and that there could be no more reasonable division of parties than that which divided them into Reformers and Conservatives. They were told now by gentlemen opposite, that there was no longer any need of party, that party

ties ought to be obliterated and that all should be ready to take good measures from any Government, and support any Government that might happen for the time to be in power. If this arrangement were followed out to its legitimate conclusion, it would amount to this:—that the Government of the day should retain power in perpetuity. A Government would only have to yield occasionally, as the necessity arose, and retain its large majority indefinitely. He for one could not give his assent to a policy of this kind, the effect of which would not be to build up the national interests, but merely to hold a certain class of men in office for ever. During the election, it was assumed that all patriotism was on the side of the gentlemen who composed and supported the Government. He had thought that he had acted a patriot's part in doing all that lay in his power to support the Government in carrying the Confederation measure; but when the elections came on, the Minister of Public Works and other Ministers crowded into his county so thick and fast that he could scarcely count them, branding him as a disunionist and as disloyal to the British crown, which, in their estimation, was the equivalent of being in opposition to the Minister of Justice, and his new follower, the Minister of Public Works. A charge of disloyalty against him was also founded on the assumption that he was to form an alliance with the member for Hants (Mr. Howe), who to the people of the West was painted as black as a demon. They were told that the member for Hants had declared he was ready to march to the frontier at the head of an army of Bluenoses, with bayonets fixed, to drive off the Canadians, and that he had openly avowed his preference for annexation. Fortunately, he had some familiarity with the speeches of the member for Hants, and had been able to repel the charge, brought against him by the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of Public Works. Similar charges were made with equal untruthfulness against his Liberal friends in the Province of Quebec. In this connection, he quoted a speech made some years ago by the Minister of Public Works on the loyalty cry raised against the Reformers of that day, and said the remarks of Mr. McDougall as to the course of the Tories then were singularly