

entered public life. Indeed I have advocated it even before I had the honour of a seat in this House. I believe that I was mainly instrumental to the bringing forward of the resolution which was moved by Mr. Howe in 1861. At public meetings in this city, in Windsor, in Kentville, in Truro I have addressed large audiences, and received from them the kindest attention. After a fair discussion of this question, I have invariably found the people of this country in favour of Union. On every occasion when I came before the electors of the city of Halifax and of the Western division, I advocated a Union of the British American Provinces. I have been sustained at three elections—at two by large majorities, and at the last without opposition. So far as I am personally concerned I assume all the responsibility of my position, and I advocate this Union because I believe it is for the best interests of British America. I believe that the time has come when we must enter on a new state of political relations with each other. Look at this House, to-day are we not actually bursting our shell? Is there room for the hon. gentlemen who come here from the different counties? See how the desks are crowded into the lobby. Therefore, I say, we have outgrown our condition, and require expansion. We must do like the Massachusetts man: when the village becomes too large he emigrates to the West. We must look to the great West which opens before us and cultivate trade and intercourse with its people.

We are taunted with endeavoring to take away the privileges of the people, and transfer them to Canada. What is the fact? We give 19,000 square miles, and get in return 400,000 square miles. If we transfer our revenue to Canada, shall we not have a share in her revenue? All the revenues of the Provinces are to be put into a common treasury for the benefit of all. Each county of Nova Scotia now contributes to, and gets a share of the treasury of Nova Scotia. In the same way each Province will contribute to, and obtain a share of, the general treasury of the Confederacy. What is the first object to which our common funds are to contribute? It is the Intercolonial Railway, which is going to bring the whole of the great West immediately into connection with us—to distribute merchandize from one end of the Confederacy to the other. Let me turn your attention in another direction. Who are the men in this house who have voted to refer this question to the British Government? Let me just look across the floor, and whom do I see? An hon. gentleman representing the great agricultural county of Kings—representing in himself wealth, intelligence, and ability. Let me look at Annapolis, and I find two members of that fine agricultural county also in favor of union. When I cast my eye down the list, I see gentlemen representing the great coal as well as the fishing interests of this province, all of them arrayed in support of this great measure of progress. I find that only two counties, through their representatives, voted unanimously against the resolution of last winter. I confess that at one time, in order to 'put down agitation on this question, my judgment inclined me to go to the polls; but when I come to look at the position of things in this house, I feel I would be worse than the infallible jurymen if I expected to bring over thirty gentlemen to my opinion.

I have listened attentively to the arguments offered to the house since the debate commenced, and especially to those advanced by my hon. friend the member for East Halifax, who was one of the "People's Delegates," in company with a gentleman whose talents I admire and for whom I entertain the highest respect. What view did that hon. member present of the constitutional aspect of this question? I think that the pleasant time he spent in Kew Garden and Bushy Park, or perhaps the omnibuses rolling down Piccadilly, must have driven all arguments out of his head. I think that my hon. friend might have availed himself of the opportunities within his reach in the great English metropolis, and searched out some precedents and authority for the course he wishes us to pursue. As respects my hon. friend from Yarmouth, he is true to his text. He has always been opposed to railways and all measures of progress; in point of fact, he thinks Yarmouth the hub of the Province, and that we should always be tied to the old s'age coach and move to the musical notes of the wooden axle. Now I think that the time has come to give up such antiquated notions; and I hope and trust the gentlemen who will be sent to represent the people at Ottawa—if that is the seat of government—will reflect the intelligence and ability of the country, and be in every way qualified to promote its best interests.

There was another question to which my hon. friend alluded, and that was the "Organization of the Empire" according to the programme issued by Mr. Howe. However highly I value that gentleman's opinion—however much I may esteem him, I cannot help believing that it is a scheme of an entirely impracticable character. Such is the opinion, indeed, of every public man and publicist everywhere who has given the subject the least consideration.

If there is one section of this Province more likely than another to be benefited by this Confederation, it is the city of Halifax. This must be the emporium, whence will be distributed over the Confederacy all the merchandize brought to our shores. Trade must be developed to an infinite degree, labour will be developed, in fact all classes and interests will receive a valuable impulse. Our port will be filled with shipping, and our wharves and warehouses groan with the merchandize that will be required for the Confederation. I never could understand how certain persons in Halifax have opposed the scheme of Union. Perhaps I may stand almost alone in the profession to which I belong. There are a great many intelligent merchants I know opposed to it, but I cannot understand the reasons that influence them. No man is infallible, and some may not take that broad and generous view of questions which men in a different position of life can and do take on subjects of this kind. There is another question to which I have often referred, and that is, the position of our young men. What is there to excite ambition among our young men in the existing condition of things? The avenues to employment are narrow and confined. I regret to say that I know of many young men belonging to the respective professions whose energies are paralyzed for want of sufficient employment, and of those objects of ambition which are open to them in other countries.