

Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Hence, an invitation was sent to the Maritime provinces, asking them to join with Ontario and Quebec in a discussion as to the advantages of one large association over two smaller ones. Each province was represented and they reported back to their own legislative assembly, expressing a hope for further meetings. Of course, as all honourable senators know, this was followed later on by the meeting in Charlottetown and, after that, the general election on Confederation in August, 1866. The result of this election showed that Ontario and Quebec were strongly in favour of Confederation. New Brunswick had a slight majority in favour of Confederation, but it was bitterly opposed by many. Nova Scotia strongly opposed this proposition. The manner in which Sir John A. Macdonald eventually persuaded the Honourable Joseph Howe of Nova Scotia to support Confederation, much to the dismay and even horror of many Nova Scotians, makes interesting reading. Nor was the opposition to Confederation only on this side of the Atlantic. The debates in the mother country were strong indeed; many felt that we would be unable to govern ourselves, and others felt that such a confederation would weaken the British government. Honourable senators, I believe that a condensation of these debates would make interesting reading and would be a wonderful source of information for all Canadians.

If time permitted I could quote from many of these speeches which, no doubt, many, if not all, honourable senators have read. As the hour is getting late it would not be wise for me to go into the matter further at this time.

Hon. Donald Cameron: Honourable senators, I am glad to see this bill come into the house at this time, and I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for second reading. It has not been introduced a moment too soon. Some of us in the western provinces had the experience a few years ago of going through the planning for the 50th anniversary celebrations. Some provinces took five and others seven years to prepare for that event. This is a much bigger task than were those significant developments in the west, and it will require a longer time, greater planning and mobilization of resources. I am pleased that the Prime Minister is tackling this matter so enthusiastically, and I am sure that everyone will be behind him in endeavouring to make this an occasion worthy of this country.

This bill, if enacted, would establish the necessary co-ordinating machinery to bring together the varied groups of people, to mobilize the resources of money, ideas and imagination right across the country. It is high

time we got busy, if we are to be as effective as we should. This legislation provides for the necessary financial sinews which will make the work of the national conference effective, and it provides the executive arm for carrying out the various projects.

The purposes, as set forth in the act, are: . . . to promote interest in, and to plan and implement programs and projects relating to, the Centennial of Confederation in Canada in order that the Centennial may be observed throughout Canada in a manner in keeping with its national and historical significance.

These purposes, honourable senators, are worthy of our most enthusiastic support, and I am sure that all Canadians will support them.

Canadians have been responding with enthusiasm already. I read a report recently which indicated that some 12,000 different suggestions had been sent to the committee already. Many of them are admirable and some of them are impractical, but the fact that people have taken the trouble to sit down and write out their suggestions is very helpful. Canadians are becoming conscious of their history, and conscious of the importance of preserving it and marking it in various ways.

A week ago last Sunday I drove out to Upper Canada Village on the St. Lawrence. It is my opinion that the people responsible for that concept are to be greatly commended. They are doing a magnificent thing there. The village is laid out with imagination and skill, and it is bringing to later generations a living, vital picture of what life was like in this country in an earlier day. I was delighted to see hundreds and hundreds of people there. The only criticism I have is that the admission fee charged is too high, and perhaps it prevents some people from seeing the village. It is not necessary to recoup the cost in two or three years, even though it did amount to some two or three million dollars. As time goes on I hope the price of admission will be reduced. However, the project itself is imaginative and worthy of all Canadians, and it is something that will fit very well into the centennial picture.

I have been delighted to hear of the support which has come from the ten provinces of Canada and the federal Government for the establishment of a Confederation Building in Charlottetown to honour the Fathers of Confederation and everything their actions stood for in the building of Canada. As I understand it, this particular project, which may cost anywhere from \$4.5 to 5 million, has the unanimous and enthusiastic support of each of the provinces as well as of the federal Government.