

measure to remove the tolls from the Burlington Bay Canal, amid universal and prolonged merriment.

MR. MCGEE'S LAST SPEECH

I took objection, sir, this afternoon to the motion which has stood for some days in the name of the honourable member for Wellington Centre, and which has now been introduced as an amendment, being taken up out of order. I did so, as I stated then, believing that such a discussion as it was likely to occasion would not be conducive to the peaceful interests of the country, and the objection which I raised has been sustained. That objection was made as much in the interest of the honourable member himself as of any other of this country. And had he but availed himself of the interval which had thus been offered him for the exercise of reflection, and decided not to throw himself, as he has now done, into this Nova Scotia quarrel, I believe sir, that, in after years, he would not have failed to acknowledge the service which I had rendered him. I believe that the honourable member, although he had spent some time previously in opposing Confederation, came from the hustings as a "fair trial man"—one of those pledged at his election to give the new system a fair trial—and how is he fulfilling that pledge? He is seeking for subjects of irritation, and not finding it advisable openly to oppose the principles of Union here, loses no opportunity to strike below the belt—to deal a stab in the dark—and it is time now that the mask should be torn from his face. In the honourable profession to which he belongs there are certain applications in use, known to the faculty as emollients. If, in the exercise of the duties of that honourable profession, he makes such liberal emollient use of vinegar and gall as he here employs towards Confederation, all I can say is that his unlucky patients are sincerely to be pitied. The honourable gentleman had affected to be a convert to Confederation. If he had been really a convert, he would be prepared even at the eleventh hour—even at the eleventh hour and the fifty-ninth minute—to give the new system a fair trial. If he had been earnest in his professions of desire for the success of Confederation he might have said, "I do not think Dr. Tupper was the best choice for this mission, but, since he has gone, I wish him all success for the sake of the welfare of the Union." If he thinks it

necessary at all to go into the matter of the appointment of a gentleman to watch the interests of the Dominion in this matter of repeal, he might be expected to do so in some such spirit, and to discuss it in some such tone. He knows well that no good can possibly result from such a motion at such a time; he knows well that the motion must certainly miscarry; and he knows well that if it were possible for it to be adopted, the recall of Dr. Tupper would have no appreciable effect in the conciliation of Nova Scotia. Why, Sir, it would be only the abstraction of a thimble full from the bucket of her discontentment. The dissatisfaction with the Union which unhappily prevails among a considerable portion of the people there is founded on other grounds than Dr. Tupper's appointment, and has existed long previously. It is a family matter which it is the right to leave within the family; and it is for this reason that none other than a Nova Scotian could have been judiciously chosen for the mission. There are not many in this House, not Nova Scotians, who know much about Nova Scotia, and why not leave Nova Scotians to meet Nova Scotians on their own ground? Dr. Tupper's character has been assailed, and he himself personally maligned, and it is due to him that he should be placed in a position to justify his conduct, with regard to the part he had taken towards obtaining that Imperial Act of legislation by which the Union had been established. It has been charged against him that he has lost the confidence of his own people. Sir, I hope that in this House mere temporary or local popularity will never be made the test by which to measure the worth or efficiency of a public servant. (Hear, hear). He, Sir, who builds upon popularity builds upon a shifting sand. He who rests simply on popularity, and who will risk the right in hunting after popularity, will soon find the object he pursues slip away from him. It is, Sir, in my humble opinion, the leader of a forlorn hope who is ready to meet and stem the tide of temporary unpopularity, who is prepared, if needs be, to sacrifice himself in defence of the principles which he has adopted as those of truth—who shows us that he is ready not only to triumph with his principles, but even to suffer for his principles—who has proved himself, above all others, worthy of peculiar honour. (Applause). It would show but a base spirit to sacrifice the man who had sacrificed himself for the Union. Nothing in this appointment has so greatly pleased me as the chivalry of spirit by which it has been dictated, and in which the honourable and

[Mr. Thompson (Haldimand).]