

that we should have a military organisation with a view to aggression ; we had sufficient scope at home for our ambition. Our constitution allowed us to extend our Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and he was as desirous as any one could be that, with a view to this, we should as soon as possible acquire the Northwest Territory, and get British Columbia brought into the Confederation. Now, with regard to the measure he was about to introduce, he might say he had felt it a duty incumbent on him before submitting it to the house, to make himself acquainted with the militia laws of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. New Brunswick, he supposed, contained a population of 300,000 and Nova Scotia 400,000, Upper Canada, he supposed, had now a population of between 1,600,000 and 1,700,000 and Quebec between 1,300,000 and 1,400,000. Although Ontario, and Quebec had thus by much the larger proportion of the inhabitants of the Dominion, still the Maritime Provinces furnished a very important element of defence in their sea-faring population. If we ever had a battle so fought there was no doubt that it would have to be fought to a large extent on the sea, and then, though Ontario and Quebec would have a greater number of men to send into the field in the shape of infantry, artillery and cavalry, still, in the matter of maritime defence, the Maritime Provinces would take the first rank. After this preface, he was now prepared to approach the subject matter of the measure. As he had already said, he had considered not only the law of the late Province of Canada, but the militia laws of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and he might add Prince Edward Island, and he had given directions that all those laws should be distributed in connection with this Bill. He had included those of Prince Edward Island, because he hoped we might ere long welcome it as one of the Provinces comprising this Union. In preparing this measure he had also had the advantage of the report made by the gallant Colonel at the head of the Militia of the Province of Canada, Colonel MacDougall, who had prepared in the shape of a Bill his views as to Militia organization of the country. He (Mr. Cartier) had had the benefit of those views to aid him in bringing this measure before the House. He might also say that he had derived some benefit from the consideration of the measure which in 1862 upset his government. (laughter). It was due to Col. Lysons and the gentlemen associated with him by His Excellency as a commission to report on the militia laws, that he should say that the measure framed on their report had been a great help to him. (Laughter). The Bill which he had now the honour to introduce to the House divided the militia into active and reserve militia.