

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Howe was too shrewd a politician to have harbored any very great hopes of defeating the Confederation bill, after he had had an opportunity of studying the situation in England. Nevertheless he fought it with undiminished energy to the end. Confederation being then an accomplished fact, no one could fairly blame him if he decided to accept gracefully the situation. Howe, however, was essentially a fighter. He had no sooner returned to Nova Scotia than he threw himself into the local campaign to defeat Tupper and the Confederate party in Nova Scotia. The elections were held in September, and the Anti-Confederates swept the province, carrying thirty-six of the thirty-eight seats. In the elections for the new Dominion Parliament, eighteen out of nineteen constituencies returned Anti-Confederates. Howe carried Hants by an overwhelming majority, and led his almost solid phalanx of Anti-Confederates to Ottawa. The only fly in his ointment was the fact that his old enemy Tupper had been re-elected in Cumberland.

The opponents of Confederation having captured Nova Scotia, decided to agitate for a repeal of the British North America Act so far as their province was concerned. An address was adopted by the Assembly praying His Majesty to grant repeal; and at a public meeting held in Temperance Hall, Halifax, on January 13th, 1868, the following Resolutions were adopted:

“Whereas, owing to the great diversity of interests and feeling between the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Canada, the public sentiment of the people of Nova Scotia is distinctly opposed to the Confederation of this Province with the Province of Canada.

And whereas, the people of Nova Scotia never did become assenting parties to the Act of Union, the Legislature which sanctioned such Act having done so in direct opposition to the well understood wishes of the People, and by assuming a power never entrusted to them.

Therefore Resolved That in the opinion of this meeting the Act of Union, as passed and made law by the Imperial Parliament, has no claims upon the Loyalty of the People of Nova Scotia, any obedience yielded to such Act, being a matter of coercion and not given with the free assent of a free people.

And be it also Resolved That this meeting hails with much satisfaction the action of the members of the Nova Scotia Legislature and also of the Nova Scotia Members of the Dominion House of Commons who have signified their determination to use all constitutional means to bring about a Repeal of so much of the Act of Union as refers to the Province of Nova Scotia—and also express the hope that the Legislature of this Province immediately after assembling for despatch