

vest any public work belonging to a province in the Dominion by an Act of Parliament creating such a work one for the general advantage of Canada, yet both the letter and the spirit of the Act are entirely opposed to the idea that such a work should be taken out of the control of the provincial authorities and subjected to the legislative authority of the Federal Parliament without compensation. These claims were pressed upon the late Government steadily and persistently by every means in our power, including a special delegation to Ottawa in 1892, but no fair consideration of our claims could be obtained.

I regret to say that every effort made by the government to secure for the province the repayment of these large sums were resisted and obstructed at every stage, and with the utmost determination, on the part of our opponents in the provincial legislature, and it is difficult to conceive of any motive for such unpatriotic proceedings, apart from the desire not to embarrass their political friends in the Dominion Parliament. No such unworthy motive should have been allowed to interfere with the settlement of the just and equitable claims of the province.

I propose to again press these claims to an issue, and I have reason to believe that since the change of Administration at Ottawa they stand a better chance for recognition than at the hands of the late Federal Ministry. Before taking such a step, however, it seems to me desirable that we should go strengthened by the mandate of the people of Nova Scotia. Any considerable sum received on this account will be extremely useful in many ways, including, among others, that of making substantial repairs to certain of the public highways of the province which stand in need of special consideration.

Those two sums mentioned together amount to \$1,351,033. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) has put it in the power of his late colleague, the present Premier of Nova Scotia, to say that the late Government had denied justice, and that he had reason to believe, now when the gentleman who pressed these claims occupied the position of Finance Minister, that the \$1,351,033 would soon be in the treasury of Nova Scotia. When hon. gentlemen behind the Finance Minister find that they have to implement these promises, it will, therefore, not be a matter of great surprise for them.

Nova Scotia is a little fitful occasionally in reference to elections. In 1867 I came to this Parliament with eighteen, all the rest of the Nova Scotia members pledged to oppose me and to break up confederation. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) knows that in the election of 1872 the Government of which I was a member had the support of the entire Nova Scotia delegation without a single man being opposed to us. The hon. gentleman knows, that in 1874, when an election was suddenly sprung upon the country on a question that was not understood, I came back with one solitary friend at my side, Mr. McDonald, now a Senator. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) knows, that in 1878, five years afterwards, when the people had an opportunity of learning what the real position of matters was, fifteen Conservatives out of a total of twenty members were returned to

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

this House. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), who was in power in the province a good part of the time, knows when I resigned my position in 1888, the Liberal-Conservative party had the support of sixteen out of twenty-one Nova Scotia members in this Parliament.

I may say a single word to my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Davies) who paid a well deserved compliment to the county of Colchester, and who undertook to boast the other day, that that intelligent county would be carried for the Liberal party. Well, the man who stood at the head of the poll in that county, was a Liberal-Conservative. Notwithstanding that Nova Scotia was terrorized by the present Government with threats of dismissal from office, with this gigantic bribe of \$1,300,000 and with the bribe of a promise to maintain the duty on coal; notwithstanding all these things, this Government was unable to prevent a Liberal-Conservative from being at the head of a poll in that county.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) has reference to the local and not to the Dominion election.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. As far as the Dominion election is concerned, I may say that the Liberal candidate who a year ago carried that constituency by 300 or 400 majority, at present claims the seat by a majority of eight, but I have no doubt of having the pleasure at an early date of introducing the Liberal-Conservative member for Colchester to the Speaker of this House.

I have listened in this House to a good many things with regard to which I felt that some little liberty was taken with the intelligence of the House, but I have listened to nothing so surprising as some of the statements made recently. It was a matter of amusement to us of the Conservative party, to hear the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) claiming to be the great representative of British sentiment and British loyalty. He taunted us with having been very loud-mouthed about our patriotism, and our regard for the motherland. Well, the hon. gentleman knows, that from time immemorial, loyal devotion to the Crown and admiration and affection for England, has been the cardinal principle of the Liberal-Conservative party. The hon. gentleman knows, that any measure which may be introduced into this House, calculated to draw the mother country and Canada more closely together, and to promote the unity of the Empire, will receive the spontaneous, and hearty, and enthusiastic support of every member of the Liberal-Conservative party. But, Sir, it is a little presumptuous on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite to lecture us on the subject of loyalty. The Minister of Trade and Commerce knows well, that it is within the last