

years ago he had it in his power to confer lasting benefits upon his native Province, and in honouring her to have honoured himself. He did not choose to pursue such a course; and as the result of his policy, he stands here to-day shorn of his followers and his influence, having won in his own constituency a nominal victory that was worse than a defeat. Had he been just to his native Province, he might, like the eagle, have soared upwards to honour and dignity; but he resembles rather the sloth, that, fastening itself upon some tall sapling, devours the bark, and the green leaves, and the tender twigs, until the topmost bough is reached, and the last leaf disappears, when, starving amid the barrenness its own greed created, it falls to the ground a helpless, useless thing. When speaking of the outside influences affecting the Nova Scotian elections, the honourable member from Cumberland did not choose to mention certain influences of a very potent kind that were used in favour of Confederation. Every official in the Province was brought into line to vote for that party. Then the patronage of both the Dominion and Local Governments was most unscrupulously used, and promises of office were freely made as the price of political support. A lighthouse was in course of erection in the county I have the honour to represent, and the post of keeper was promised to no less than fifteen electors, to induce them to vote for the Confederate candidate; while since the election, the Gazette has groaned beneath the lists of magistrates and other officials, who have received places as the reward of their political venality. Last, but not least, there was the expenditure of the road grant for the year, the whole of which amounting to \$210,000, scattered in small sums over every settlement of every county in the Province, formed an immense corruption fund in aid of Confederation. If under all these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, if with all these advantages in their favour, the Unionists were unable to secure votes of one-third of the electors of the Province, it does seem a waste of words for the honourable member from Cumberland to attempt now to detract from the force of the Anti-Confederate victory, or to claim for the Confederates a preponderance of the intelligent and unbiased sentiment of the Province. I do not wish, Mr. Speaker, to occupy too much of the time of the House at this late hour, but I must respectfully ask the attention of members while I briefly refer to a few of the features of the Confederation scheme that cause the

[Mr. McDonald (Lunenburg)]

people of Nova Scotia to dislike and distrust it. The honourable member from West Toronto has spoken of the scheme as a partnership, in which the party holding the smallest capital was to be enriched by participating in all the wealth of his more prosperous neighbour. But, sir, in such partnerships, the advantage is not always on the side of the small trader. A case of this kind may sometimes occur:—a man of vast means, but of vaster speculative ideas, while carrying on an immense business, may be yearly plunging deeper in debt and difficulties, while his neighbour, living prudently and trading carefully on a limited capital, gradually, but surely, increases his wealth, and is enabled to greatly extend his operations. It might be natural, perhaps, for the larger trader in such a case, to seek a business connection with his unpretending neighbour; but such a partnership could not possibly be productive of good to the latter, and would be pretty certain, sooner or later, to involve him in his partner's ruin and financial destruction. This is nearly the case as regards Nova Scotia and Canada. Compared with the latter, in area, population, and commercial operations, the former is a small country; but though small, her financial condition is sound, she has prospered as few other countries have prospered, and she has not had a deficit in her treasury but once in twelve years. Canada, on the contrary, has never had a surplus but once in the same period of time. A partnership under such circumstances, may, perhaps, be advantageous to the larger and more extravagant Province; but Nova Scotians, as prudent business men, feel that the connection is one in which they cannot have much to gain, and may have much to lose. In looking at the British North America Act, which creates these Provinces a Dominion, I find that the first clause of Section 19, gives to the Dominion Government the power to control the public debt and the public property of all the Provinces. The Provinces all had debt enough, but Nova Scotia feels that in this respect she is not fairly dealt with beside her larger neighbour. Canada has very little in the shape of available assets to show for her debt, while that of Nova Scotia is represented by a valuable railroad property that in 1866 paid all its working expenses, and left a margin to go towards the interest on the cost of its construction. While the debt of Canada is represented by little else than a long series of annual deficits and a large bundle of useless railway bonds, almost every dollar of that of Nova Scotia is represented by a rail-