

then, that one deep feeling of indignation should pervade the people of Nova Scotia at this gross wrong and injustice? In the name of Nova Scotia then, and more particularly in the name of my own constituents, do I protest against this Act of Union. I regard the means by which it has been brought about as unjust to the people, and the measure itself as unfair in its details, and injurious to their interests. Let us pause here, Mr. Speaker, and survey the position. Confederation, it is true, has become a fact accomplished. It has become the law of the land. What is to be done then to get rid of it? Do I accept the situation? No, most emphatically no; I do not accept the situation. Am I a Repealer it may be asked. I answer yes! I am a Repealer. But how is repeal to be effected? What are the best means to be employed to accomplish this desirable consummation? Now, to accomplish repeal we must enlist on one side the sympathies and legislative action of the Lords and Commons of Great Britain. I do not think, sir, that the opportune moment has arrived for obtaining this cooperation. I think the best way to accomplish repeal is to let the Act of Union prove itself by its fruits. I much fear that this Confederation fruit will be bitter to the taste and unsightly to the eye of Nova Scotia. Well, all the better for our purpose. We will then have a case to present to the Parliament of England, a case which cannot be resisted. We can address the people of England in this language: You forced this Union upon us against our will; in vain have we remonstrated, in vain have we petitioned against its acceptance. You told us it was a good measure; the nobility of England told us so. Many of our people, some of them of unquestionable talent and worth, have also given it as their opinion that Union is good. Well, out of deference to these opinions, we have waited patiently in order to test the truth of these predictions by the working of the system, by the actual logic of events, and behold its fruit, its bitter fruit! I would point to Nova Scotia bleeding and covered with wounds from the practical working of the system;—to her children suffering from depression, in their circumstances; and with boldness and confidence would I then say, Look! see what Confederation has done, in the name of justice, in the name of right, in the name of fair play, that familiar expression so well known to Englishmen, and which finds a ready response in the great heart of England, I say loose us, and let us go! Nor would the appeal, I think, be in vain, at all events it could be made with a greater prospect of success than at present, when hasty

action for Repeal without giving the measure any trial whatever, would I fear be ascribed to prejudice and passion on our part. For these reasons, and because I do not desire to now mar the effect of the Repeal movement, I think it best for the present to suspend our action and in the interest of Nova Scotia to enter as I now do, my most solemn protest against Confederation in the mode and manner of its accomplishment, and reserve to my constituents the right of agitating for its Repeal, whenever they may think proper to do so. I will sharpen the sword of opposition and put it in the scabbard for the present, but not to sleep. Confederation is now upon its trial and by its fruits shall it be judged and estimated by the people of Cape Breton. If contrary to expectation it should after all prove to be for our benefit, we will then indeed hail it as a boon and readily assist in raising up the plant to a majestic tree, but on the other hand, should its fruits prove unsightly to the eye and bitter to the taste, the tocsin of Repeal shall be sounded with clarion notes throughout the beautiful, picturesque, and fertile plains of Cape Breton. Then shall I draw the sword of Repeal; wield it in a Constitutional manner, and never shall we rest until our deliverance has been achieved, until this forced Union shall be severed by the strong will of a suffering but united people.

Sir John A. Macdonald then moved in the usual way the formal motion appointing a select committee to draft an address to His Excellency. Carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Robitaille—Monday next. —Address for copies of reports and correspondence relating to Intercolonial Railway since Quebec conference.

Mr. Sproat—Address for returns of surveys and reports referring to harbours on east coast of Lake Huron.

Mr. Mills—Enquiry of Ministry whether it was their intention to make appropriations to improve navigation on Rivers Thames and Sydenham.

Mr. White—Address for amount of tolls collected on Burlington Canal from April 1864 to July 1867 inclusive.

Mr. Smith—Enquiry of Ministry whether it was their intention to introduce a measure establishing Court of Repeal.