

inces—the men who by their energy, talent and sacrifices had brought us as far as we have gone in the path of national manhood. (Hear, hear.) But others were in Ontario of a different opinion. There was in the first instance strong opposition to the Government. There was the opposition of those who said down with the Government, because it is a Coalition, and every Coalition is a curse. But this cry was devoid of sense or reason. I would like to know how all the great questions that have agitated Canada to its very core have been settled except by Coalitions. (Hear, hear.) It was a Coalition that settled the Clergy Reserves Question. It was a Coalition that settled the Seigniorial Question. It was a Coalition that brought about the Act of Confederation, and the present Coalition Government in order that it may have a chance of perfecting the details of this measure, has been thoroughly sustained in the Province of Ontario. The Coalition party has swept everything before them in that Province at the polls. But let us rise superior to sectional disputes or local politics. We have now a Union of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This Union is not a thought of yesterday. It is the realization of the aspirations of the leading men of each of the Provinces for the last half century. In each there was a growth of public opinion in favour of it, and all converged at the right time in the great measure now the law of the land. The member for Hants says he again and again killed it off in his own Province, but still it appears to have grown. It appears to have had many lives, for the more it was killed the longer and stronger it grew (laughter.) But I was amused at the way in which that honourable gentleman killed it off. He killed it off by speaking in favour of it (laughter.) This showed the growth of public sentiment which he could not resist, and was obliged to lead (hear.) We have nothing to do with the inconsistencies of that honourable gentleman, except as affecting his sincerity on the floor of this House. I agree with him, that even if he were inconsistent, that is no reason why the people of this Province should be deprived of their rights in an improper manner. And my regret is that that honourable gentleman has descended from his high position as one of the leading statesmen of the Dominion, to fight the battle of mere sectionalism on the floor of this House. But what have we to do with the manner in which Confederation was carried as regards Nova Scotia? With us Confederation is a fixed fact. The question is not whether the member for Hants was consist-

[Mr. Harrison (Toronto West)]

ent or inconsistent; not whether the mode adopted towards Nova Scotia was the best mode; and whether the Union is not an advantage to the whole Dominion, including Nova Scotia as an integral part of it. If so, it is a subject of congratulation; if not, the reverse. I affirm that it is a subject of congratulation, and hope that all present will lend a willing assistance in order to make it perfect. I affirm that it is a subject of congratulation, because by it several small Colonies are made a great and powerful people. (Hear, hear.) Strength is power, and wealth is power, and where we have a discreet people, with strength and wealth, we have a great people. Let us take stock of our new partnership. Let us see how we stand at the start of our new commercial and political career. We have a country whose area is 377,045 square miles, with one exception larger than any of the States of Europe. Mere area perhaps, without population is a source of weakness. But we have a population of about 4,000,000—a population greater than that of 38 out of the 48 states of Europe—and greater than that of the United States of America when they first became an independent power. Canada before Confederation had not more than 534,575 men between the ages of 20 and 60, but since Confederation we have not less than 653,567 fighting men. We have added not less than 1,000,000 of consumers to our whole population, and not less than 100,000 fighting men to our military strength. Besides we have acquired great strength on the sea, where we were in most need of strength. Before the Union we had only 5,958 sailors, and most of these on our inland waters. Now we can boast of 28,360 sailors, and when we shall have Newfoundland as a member of our national partnership we shall have no less than 66,938 sailors, and so become one of the great maritime powers of the world. Before the Union our shipping was represented by a tonnage of 287,187 tons, but now we can boast of 708,421 tons, nearly as much as that of France with a population of 35,000,000. (Minister of Justice—our tonnage is as large as that of France.) Mr. Harrison—if we could now count Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island as parts of our Dominion, I believe it would be as large, but without those Provinces I think our tonnage is a little less than that of France.) A great impetus must be given to shipbuilding, a most important branch of native industry. The number of ships built in Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1863, represented 199,821 tons—nearly as much as the shipbuilding interest of the whole United