

pledge to the electors in presence of his leader and colleague Mr. Jones, who also represents the county of Halifax:

I will not detain you longer, but will conclude by saying that if you elect Mr. Jones and myself to the Dominion Parliament the interests of Nova Scotia will not suffer at our hands. We are charged with intending to countenance factious opposition. No such thing. We have certainly given the scheme a conscientious and consistent opposition, but are now disposed, if we should go to Ottawa and find it to work even moderately well, to let it have a fair trial.

The honourable member for Guysboro, who led the opposition to Union in the Nova Scotia Legislature at the last session, on the ground that it had not been submitted to the electors, and who ably advocated those views, too, on subsequent occasions to say on the floor of the House that now that the Imperial Act had become the law of the land, he was prepared to bow to its authority, and give his best aid to carry on the legislation of the country under the new circumstances in which we were placed. While Mr. Campbell who made this statesmanlike and patriotic declaration was returned by acclamation, Mr. Annand who pledged himself to repeal was defeated at the polls. I ask my honourable friend who has blamed the Unionists so severely for acting without the question having been fairly submitted to the people, how he can in the presence of facts like these, use the power he obtained for the purpose of endeavouring to destroy and break down this Union before giving it that fair trial to which he stands pledged before the people. Can my honourable friend expect that the Imperial Parliament who passed this act with a petition against it, signed according to Mr. Annand's declaration by "about 40,000 petitioners," break faith with this great Confederation at the instance of representatives who only succeeded in polling about half that number of electors, and upon the pledge that they would give this measure a "fair trial". No man is in a worse position to urge objections to the mode in which this measure was passed, than the honourable member who has just addressed the House, as it is well known that he spent years in advocating a system of responsible government by which the affairs of the country should be controlled, according to the wishes of the majority of the people's representatives. What guarantee can my honourable friend give the Imperial Government that the same reaction will not take place in Nova Scotia that was witnessed in New Brunswick, where one year an overwhelming majority of the electors declared against the Union, and the next a still larger

majority polled their votes in favour of it. I am not without hope, Mr. Speaker, that my honourable friend will yet reconsider his position on this question, and assume the same statesmanlike and patriotic position which the former opponents of Union representing New Brunswick have taken. I read with great pleasure the manly declaration made by my honourable friend, Mr. Anglin, at Montreal, the other night, a declaration that did honour to the head and the heart of that gentleman—that although he had been conscientiously opposed to the Union, he was now prepared to give his best aid to work it out in the manner best calculated to promote the good of our common country. Sir, I would rejoice to see my honourable friend from Nova Scotia in the same way to assume a position that would enable the country to avail itself of the great ability he possesses. He says that the Government could not give him, or those who act with him, anything that he could honourably accept. It would, of course, be impossible for any Government to strengthen the hand of those who declare their intention to break down the Constitution of the country whenever they obtain the power. But my honourable friend must see that his position renders it equally impossible for him to aid a constitutional opposition in the responsible and important Parliamentary functions that they are called upon to discharge, as nothing would necessarily paralyze an opposition so completely as being associated with parties hostile to the existence of the integrity of the country, and anxious to disintegrate it. Under these circumstances I put it seriously to my honourable friend whether the obligations which he has assumed by taking his seat in this Parliament does not bind him at all events to give that fair trial to the existing institutions of the country, which the electors of Nova Scotia had a right to expect from his declarations previous to the elections. I make these observations from no apprehension that the Union of these Provinces can in the slightest degree be endangered by any course which the honourable member, or those who sustain him, may take, but in order to avert the evil to our common country, and especially to my own Province likely to result from this mischievous agitation for repeal. My honourable friend says that he has been charged with disloyalty. Far be it from me to assail the reputation of any man except upon the clearest evidence, but when the delegates were charged with being traitors to their country, we felt it right to call attention to the striking fact that while not a Fenian, or