

without some sacrifices upon the part of the people of the Dominion is beyond all doubt, but I have much misunderstood the feelings and spirit of my countrymen if they are not found ready to submit to any reasonable sacrifice to preserve their independence and nationality. But I trust that it will be the especial care of the Government in bringing up their scheme for the further organization of the militia that no unnecessary burdens are laid upon the people—that every regard is paid to economy consistent with expediency; and that the volunteer spirit, instead of an enforced service, should be relied upon as much as possible. In conclusion, honourable gentlemen, I am sure that I shall have your hearty concurrence in the hopes and anticipations expressed by His Excellency in reference to the future of the new Dominion. It has pleased Providence to bless us with an abundant harvest. Our farmers are obtaining high and remunerative prices for the produce of their farms. Notwithstanding the late unfortunate failure of one of our banking institutions, trade is prosperous throughout the Province generally. We have no heavy imports, or burdensome taxes to pay. Peace, quietness, and security reign within our borders, and we have a future before us of which any people might be proud. But it rests with ourselves, honourable gentlemen, to make or mar that future. Let a spirit of sectionalism prevail, let party strife grow rampant, and all our brilliant anticipations may end in disappointment. But if we strive to conduct our affairs in a spirit of moderation and mutual forbearance, if following the spirit of those words with which each day we prepare for our deliberations, “we lay aside all private interests, prejudices and partial affections,” then we may safely hope that in His Excellency’s words, we shall render the great work of Union which has been achieved, a blessing to ourselves and our posterity, and a fresh starting point in the moral, political, and material advancement of the people of Canada.

**Hon. Mr. McCully**, rising to second the answer, alluded to the negotiations which had preceded Confederation, and spoke of the resources of the Provinces now that they are united. It was for the Senate to arrange details, and they had both the power and the spirit to make the Union all that could be desired. The elements of a great nation the Dominion fully possessed, and nothing but unity among the different parts of it, a kindliness of feeling between the Confederated States, was wanted to fully develop them. An assimilation of the laws was very essential

and would, he trusted, be well considered by the House. He hoped that the taxes would be as light as possible, the more especially as in the Maritime Provinces, the people had been accustomed to a low tariff; and an uneasy feeling existed, which only the adoption of a low tariff would effectually remove. In the Act of Union, Canada proper had evinced the utmost liberality, as not now demanding such large sacrifices from the Maritime Provinces, in regard to the construction of the Inter-colonial Railway as it had previously done, and he had no doubt, but that the utmost economy would be practiced in the prosecution of the work. Not desirous of great military display, nor of large expenditure for military purposes, it was nevertheless desirable to place the militia and volunteers on the most efficient footing consistent with a due regard to the wishes of the people of the Maritime Provinces, who were very sensitive in reference to what they considered as the great burden of a contemplated novel military organization. He trusted that those eligible for militia duty would not be called out for a longer time than was absolutely necessary to make them efficient in drill; and he wound up by speaking hopefully of the future of the Dominion.

**Hon. Mr. McDonald** then rose and said: We may not be able to realize precisely the feelings of those who have been directly concerned in the organization of a new nation, but at least we may appreciate the peculiar importance of the circumstances in which for the first time we meet as Senators of the New Dominion. Happily ours is not the task of revolution, or even of reconstruction. No act of secession has deprived us of the strong support and wise counsel of the parent state, nor has any form of internal conflict created sectional difficulties which only long years could overcome. We are simply exemplifying the law of growth in its application to provincial communities. We are emerging from the feeble condition of isolated Colonies into the vastly more satisfactory condition of a confederated portion of the British Empire. Now, as never before, we may plume ourselves upon the distinctive appellation of British Americans—the heirs of half a continent, with a destiny which only want of nerve or want of judgment on our part can render otherwise than great. Upon the people of the Dominion alone depends its future, and upon us as members of its Legislature devolves the duty of doing what can be done to give effect to the popular will in the promotion of what I may