

WEDNESDAY, Feby. 19, 1868.

The House met at 3 o'clock, p. m

MISCELLANEOUS

Hon ATTY GENERAL presented a petition from a number of Indians of the Bras d'Or Lake, praying for relief.

Hon Mr. ROBERTSON, as chairman of the committee on the Inverness election, asked leave for the committee to adjourn to Monday next at 11 o'clock. Leave granted.

Mr. NORTUP presented a petition from John Goose and others for money to expend on a road.

Hon Mr. FLYNN presented a petition for a grant of money to build a bridge.

Mr. NORTUP presented a petition from John White and others, of Musquodoboit, for a grant of money; also, a petition from Preston in reference to the school law. The latter was referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. WHITE presented a petition against any material alteration of the school law.

Mr. KIRSTON presented a number of petitions for grants of money on roads and bridges.

Mr. YOUNG presented a petition in reference to the ferry between Windsor and Hantsport.

Mr. MORRISON presented a petition from Geo. Leicester and others for money to build a bridge over Salmon River; also, a petition for a railway station at Salmon River.

Hon Mr. ROBERTSON laid on the table information asked for in reference to the Hospital for the Insane.

The adjourned debate was resumed.

MR. COPELAND'S SPEECH.

Mr. COPELAND said—Mr. Speaker, with your permission I rise to offer a few remarks upon the great question of Confederation, now before the House. But as the gentlemen around these benches have so fully and ably discussed the question already, I will not at this late period of the debate occupy much of your time.

I have the honor of being one of the representatives of the second most populous county in the Province, and if you take into consideration its vast mineral resources, I believe the first county in the Province, and as representing such a county I do not think I would be doing justice to myself or those who sent me were I to give a silent vote, I desire therefore in a few words to express my hostility to the British North America Act, also to the fraud, deceit and treachery by which it was carried.

I believe, sir, that such an Act as the British North America Act, affecting as it does the interest of the people so materially—such an overturn of their constitution—should have been referred to the people at the polls; and the parties who so systematically prevented the people from passing on it, committed a very grievous injury on the people of this Province, and perpetrated an act which will forever hand their names down to posterity as men who have wantonly trampled upon the rights and liberties of a free people. And I believe there was too much honesty and

sense of fair play in the British Parliament to pass such an Act if they had not been deceived by the delegates, and made to believe that the people of Nova Scotia were in favor of it.

But, sir, when an opportunity was at last presented to the people they arose in the majesty of their strength, and have declared in a voice of thunder that they abhor the British North America Act—the fraud by which it was carried, and the treachery of the men who perpetrated the deed.

Nova Scotia is small in extent, but rich in resources; why, sir, just but glance at her fisheries, her vast mineral wealth, her gold, her iron, her coal, her shipping, her mercantile capabilities, and her near proximity to Europe; and I think, sir, that you will agree with me that Nova Scotia is the most important part of North America in proportion to its size.

Sir, I am a Nova Scotian, possessing, I trust, all the feelings of a Briton. I am proud of my native country—proud of the mighty Empire of which we form a part, and loyal to my Queen and Sovereign. But, sir, I will never submit willingly to have my rights and liberties swept away, and handed over to the tender mercies of the Canadians, to be nothing better than “hewers of wood and drawers of water” for them. Sir, I feel that my countrymen possess the same feelings with regard to this matter, that I do myself, and that nothing but force and coercion will cause them to submit to the B. N. A. Act, and that they will embrace the very first opportunity of getting free from it. I shall therefore most heartily give my vote for the resolutions submitted by the Hon. Attorney General, knowing that in doing so, I am not only fulfilling the desires of my own constituents, but expressing the views of the people of the whole Province; and with a firm belief that the British Parliament will, on the facts being made known to them, grant the people of Nova Scotia what they desire, and without which nothing else will satisfy them, that is a repeal of the B. N. A. Act, in so far as it refers to Nova Scotia.

MR. WHITE'S SPEECH.

Mr. WHITE said—So much has been advanced on this question that it is with the greatest embarrassment that I rise to address the House. To give a silent vote on the resolutions, however, would not be congenial to my feelings or consistent with the duty I owe the people of the important county who have honored me with the trust I have undertaken. Not only has a great deal been said on this subject, but much has been so ably said that my embarrassment arises not so much from what I should say as from what I should leave unsaid. Promising not to occupy the time of the House at any length, I will advert to one or two matters which occupy my mind in connection with the history of Confederation. We all know something of the history of Canada, and a glance at that history shows that she has been laboring under serious disadvantages for thirty years past—disadvantages partly entailed by her system of representation,