

favor of the party which guarantees the religious rights of the Roman Catholic minority of Upper Canada."

Present day politicians please note.

The ministry at length fell on the 20th of May, 1862, and in the Sandfield MacDonald-Sicotte Government which succeeded, Mr. McGee was made President of the Council, and filled also for a short time the office of Secretary of State. His wonderful capacity for work is illustrated by the fact that during this time he published his "*History of Ireland*," a work which still ranks among the best of its class.

During this year (1862) also Mr. McGee began to take active steps towards bringing about the union of all the provinces, and to this end he met a deputation from the Maritime Provinces at Quebec, and discussed with them the question of constructing an inter-colonial road from St. John to River du Loup. At a large gathering at Niagara shortly after, he strongly advocated the Union of the Provinces, remarking: "I, for my part, am ready to bid God-speed to the Union, and to take my share of the responsibilities of bringing it about

But the Government of which Mr. McGee was a member was of short duration, and in 1863 Sandfield Macdonald finding himself in minority of five was forced to reconstruct his cabinet, and Mr. McGee was not invited to become a member of the reconstructed Government. Disapproving of the action of his chief, and, it may be, actuated to some extent by pique, but probably strongly impelled by the affinity which, for sometime, he had felt to exist between himself and the Opposition, he finally crossed the House; and in 1864 joined the Government of Sir E. P. Taché, as Minister of Agriculture. This Government gradually weakened and to preserve its existence was obliged to admit Mr. Brown and two of his friends from Upper Canada into the Cabinet.

During all this time Mr. McGee never ceased to advocate with both tongue and voice the cause of "Confederation." During 1863 he visited the Maritime Provinces and was even more impressed with the advantages which would accrue from a Union. The Maritime Provinces, however, despairing of union with the two Canadas, met at Charlottetown in Sept. 8th, 1864; their sittings were interrupted however, by the message that the two Canadas were ready to meet