

under our own fig tree, without the possibility of the war cloud hanging over us; and if I was guilty of being a party to that Treaty, I shall be glad to have it recorded on my tombstone. (*Loud cheers.*)

We yielded much, we gave up many things—I admit that. I told this House that we had yielded much, that we had given up many things. But still we see our country prosperous, still we see every interest growing, (*cheers*) and now we know that by no hostile hand, by no unfriendly, warlike invasion, can the future be destroyed. (*Cheers.*) Yet, Sir, I went out and I submitted my shoulder to the smiter. I knew how much it would be held out that we had not got what we ought to have got; that we had got no reciprocity, that the wheat of the Western farmer was not exchanged on equal terms with the wheat of the Americans, but I had to meet that and I met it, Mr. Speaker, like a man. (*Cheers.*)

I had to meet much more. I had not only to be told, as I was told at every place that I went to, that I was a traitor and had sold this country. If Canada is never sold in the future by a greater traitor than myself, Canada will be a fortunate country. (*Loud cheers.*)

But I was told also that I had not only sold Canada to the Yankees, but that I had sold Ontario to the other Provinces. It was said that I had not only committed a great breach of international law, but had also given them more than their rights. On every question of constitutional law I have had the satisfaction of having the courts—well not perhaps the courts, but of those men who make the courts—in my favour, and I have never made a constitutional or legal proposition in which I have not had the support of the legal advisers of the Crown in England, and in which I have not been right, and the hon. gentlemen opposite have been wrong.

But with respect to Nova Scotia we were told, not only that my course was unconstitutional, but that we had given to Nova Scotia more than they had a right to have. Perhaps the hon. gentleman opposite would say they never said so, he had been in the habit of saying so; but the fact could be proved that the hon. gentleman took the two grounds, first that our action was unconstitutional, and, second, that the action was unjust to Ontario. (*Cheers.*) Now I would ask you to speak to every member from Upper Canada, and ask if they did not find in every election that said of the Government of Canada, and that I, as Prime Minister, had granted to Nova Scotia too much, and had thereby increased the taxation of the people of Ontario? I have had to tell the people of Ontario, in the first place that Nova Scotia only got justice, and in the second that the course taken was perfectly constitutional; and even if we had given Nova Scotia a little more than justice, it was well worth the outlay. (*Cheers.*)

Why, Mr. Speaker, what did we find at the time of the Union? The Minister of Customs (Hon. Mr. Tupper) was the first man returned to the House in the elections, on strictly Union principles. Consider the position we were in here. We were with a Constitution just trembling in the balance, and yet we found one of the most important Provinces recalcitrant, threatening independence, and

opposing in every possible way the carrying out of Confederation, under which we now live and flourish. Was I to deal with this question in a hesitating way? If we had given to Nova Scotia little more than her rights, and even as it were a sop, I say it was a statesmanlike act. But, Sir, there were no necessities of that kind. We did them simple justice; and I will venture to say that any member who will now sit down and read the discussions and negotiations between Canada and Nova Scotia, will feel that we did full and ample justice. I am no friend to doing half justice, but we did them no more than justice.

What is the consequence? We see the people, irrespective of Party; we see every man in Nova Scotia, admiring the legislation of Parliament introduced by the Government, which has made Nova Scotia a part of the Dominion, instead of being a separate Province and has converted it into one of the most ardent friends of Confederation among the whole of the different members of the Dominion. (*Cheers.*) If it shall happen, Sir as it may happen, that I receive a reverse, a condemnation of any particular act of mine, I may still appeal, and I do appeal, to the members for Nova Scotia, who, when their best interests were assailed, and they were brought perforce, *fas aut nefas*, into Confederation, they still got fair treatment, got full justice, at our hands and I hope to live in the hearts of the Nova Scotians. (*Cheers.*)

While that was satisfactory to me, I think it was not satisfactory to my friends in Ontario. Every man who supported me was attacked at the polls with respect to our action on the Washington Treaty, and because it was said we had given too much to help the Nova Scotians.

So with British Columbia. Let me read some of the resolutions with reference to the Pacific Railway and British Columbia. Do you suppose, does any man suppose, we could have British Columbia within the Dominion without a railway? There must not only be a Union on paper but a Union in fact. Those hon. members of the Opposition by every act that they could, in every way they could, opposed the practical Union of British Columbia with Canada. (*Cheers.*) They voted against it, they said it was most outrageous, the plan, the idea of a Railway, was outrageous. (*Opposition cries of Hear.*) That is the language used by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I will presently quote the terms used.

Now let us look at some of the motions made. The Government moved a motion to carry out the measure which is now the law. It was moved in amendment “that the proposed engagement respecting the Pacific Railway would, in the opinion of the House, press too heavily on the resources of Canada to carry out.” That motion was defeated. (*Ministerial cheers.*) Then it was moved “that in view of the arrangement entered into with British Columbia at the time of Confederation, and the large expenditures necessary for canal improvements and other purposes within the Dominion, this House is not justified in imposing on the people the enormous burden of taxation required to construct within ten years a railway to the Pacific, as proposed by the resolution submitted to this