

delegates would ask the British Parliament to pass the Act. But we have heard that this Act of Union has never been recognized by this Legislature. What was the fact? Did not the delegates come back after the Act had received Her Majesty's assent, and give the country to understand that nothing but the Queen's Proclamation was necessary to carry the measure into effect? This Legislature, furthermore, by the first Chapter of the Acts of 1867, recognized the British North America Act as positively as if it had re-enacted it clause by clause, accepting entirely the condition of affairs.

HON. ATTY. GENERAL.—The name of the Act is not on our statute book.

MR. BLANCHARD continued.—What, then, is the meaning of the Act providing that the whole public system should be altered? What was the object in changing the members of the Legislature if the Act was not recognized? But the ninth clause of the chapter which I referred to mentions the British North America Act in terms recognizing it as the law of the country, and providing how the Legislature shall be controlled after it comes into operation. Notwithstanding that we have two laws of our own Legislature, based upon the Union Act, we are told that the country was deceived and betrayed, and never contemplated the passage of the measure. I shall wait with anticipation to hear what the Attorney General will reply to that branch of my argument. If time permitted, I should like to have gone into an examination of the amendments which I have laid on the table, because I believe them to contain a genuine exposition of constitutional law so far as I have been able to embody it in the advocacy of what I conceive to be the true state of the question. I prepared them with that view, and I invite the Attorney General to take them as a body or singly, and to show to the country where I have made a false statement, taken wrong views, or misstated the law. I will not go over them, because I have already occupied considerable time, and I do not believe in the advantage of very long speeches.

Some members have quoted the despatches as though the Colonial Secretary had required the measure to be submitted to the people. That course, I venture to say, was never contemplated. The directions from the Colonial office were that the matter should be referred to the legislatures, and by the legislatures the scheme was passed. Whether the members of the Parliament of Nova Scotia betrayed their trust, or not, is another question. I am not here as their defender, but I might reply to the taunts which have been used by saying that the men who were here then were equal, if not superior, to those who are here now; not only in point of talent and ability, but in honor and patriotism. For my own part, I feel no reason to be ashamed of the position I occupied, for two reasons. I acted in accordance with the convictions of my mind, and I was associated with gentlemen for whose character, talents and opinions I had no reason to blush, however much abuse may since have been thrown on them by gentlemen who will sit here for many a day before they earn for themselves the name and fame possessed by them. The hon. member

for Sydney took delight in attacking Mr. Bourinot, who, when he was here, was well able to take his own part; and the hon. member for Colchester attacked his former colleague, attaching to him the name of "smooth bore." I cannot say that I admire either the good taste or delicacy shown by thus attacking absent men. Some men are very bold when the enemy is not in sight. But if we are to be bored by anything I should prefer that it be by a "smooth bore," rather than anything else, but Mr. Archibald's smoothness is of the kind of which I should like to see more here; and if bored at all that the operation should not be performed by such dull and worn out pointers as we have here. The public character of those men is before the country, and they need not fear the verdict of futurity.—I therefore feel that to make myself their champion would be going beyond what is necessary. I wish, however, that some of them were here for a little while, for if they were, some of those who have been so free in talking of "treachery" and "smooth bores" and "wily men" would forbear, or if they did not, would receive such a castigation on the floors of this House, as in my opinion their conduct merits. They have gone elsewhere, however, some in the discharge of public duties, others into private life, and under all the circumstances it would have been better to have conducted this discussion without some of the unseemly references which were made.

It was said by the hon. member for Kings, the Provincial Secretary, and one or two others, that if we received \$500,000 from Canada it was in payment of the debt which Canada was bound to pay. It is most extraordinary that members will pervert the plain figures placed before them,—I showed the House that Canada had paid \$500,000 beyond and above the amounts collected,—it was not for debt, but \$50,000 was for the Annapolis Railway, and \$450,000 were for our current expenses. It is true that \$100,000 was for interest, but that is not debt,—it is a portion of what this Province would have to pay if it were not for Confederation. To all this there has not been a pretence at contradiction.

HON. PROV. SECRETARY.—Is not the sum advanced to be added to our debt?

MR. BLANCHARD continued.—We will see presently. Our debt, it is said, is up to eight millions and a half of dollars, and the General Government has paid the interest on the \$500,000, by which it exceeds the limited amount. If it is added to our debt it will be because we are not able to meet our current expenses. Let the Government bring down the proof to controvert my statements if they can,—it is impossible that they can do so, because leaving out the Annapolis Railway which may be considered debt, \$450,000 is the smallest sum paid to Nova Scotia in discharge of her *current liabilities*. The question is whether the moneys collected here were sufficient to meet those liabilities,—I assert that they were not, and if I am right we have not got the worst end of the bargain. When gentlemen come here and pretend to show that the new tariff will put into the Canadian treasury \$500,000 more than was ever