

up on this occasion by the honourable gentlemen merely to satisfy the exigencies of their position. The position taken by the repealers reminded him of a sentence illustrative of bad grammar which he had learned at school—"I will be drowned and nobody shall help me." He then referred to the two amendments—he could see no advantage to be derived from going into Committee to consider the grievances of Nova Scotia. What was the good of laying bare and exposing those grievances if no practical result was to follow? The amendment of the member for Lanark entirely met his approval. The honourable gentleman then made some remarks on the importance of maintaining the Union with a view to preserving the dignity of the empire and securing the good will and protection of the mother country which would ever prove true to those who proved loyal and true to our common sovereign and to the interests of the empire. He regretted the introduction of these resolutions as calculated to keep up an agitation which was fast dwindling in its dimensions. In proof of this he read a letter, which he stated was from a prominent gentleman in his own county, and in which the repeal agitation was declared to be a farce almost played out. He had no interest in this matter but what he believed to be the interests of his country; and after a long experience of public life he was satisfied that the public man who dealt honestly and faithfully with his people, and pursued what he was convinced was the right course, whatever might be the prevailing sentiment of the hour, was the man who would stand best with them in the long run.

Mr. McLellan said the member who had just spoken had read the election card which the members for Halifax had issued during the last election, to show that their anti-Union feeling was not very strong. That might possibly be the case, for even the public men who had been in the habit of mingling most with the people, were not aware how strong was the feeling of the people until they learned it during the election. The honourable gentleman had referred to the contributions from Ontario and Quebec for the distressed fishermen. He (Mr. McLellan) had expressed his thanks as warmly for that as was possible to do. The member for Lanark regretted that this question had been brought here, his regret could not be greater than that of the Nova Scotia members that there had been occasion to bring it here. He proceeded to refer to the allegations of the fact embraced in the reso-

lutions, and to the evidence of their correctness, which was in possession of the House. The fact, for example, that a petition had been presented to the British Parliament, signed by nearly 40,000 inhabitants of Nova Scotia, that the Act of Confederation should not be passed, might be verified by a reference to the journals of the Imperial Parliament, to be found in the Library. The honourable gentleman went on at some length to state the strength of the feeling of the people of Nova Scotia against the Union, and their determination, if possible to have it repealed.

Mr. Mackenzie said as the position taken by the Nova Scotia representatives depended very much on the soundness of their constitutional argument, he desired to address a few words to the House on that point. He had opposed in the old Canadian Parliament a direct reference to the people, first, because he believed that such a reference was not necessary under the British constitutional system, and second, because he did not believe a vote of the people could have been obtained on such a reference free from other issues. At the same time he would consider himself recreant to the duty he owed to the people, if he had attempted by his vote in Parliament to impose upon them a constitutional change that would be distasteful to them. He had no difficulty, however, on that score, for he had been fully satisfied that the people of his Province were favourable to a measure which would consolidate British interests on this continent. But the question had been submitted to the Nova Scotia Legislature in a different way from that in which it had been submitted to the Canadian Legislature. Had the resolution submitted to the Nova Scotia Legislature been submitted to the Canadian Legislature, he would have voted against it, for it gave full power to the delegates to treat with the Imperial Government in whatever way they pleased. A more loosely drawn, a more extravagant resolution it would have been scarcely possible to propose to a Legislature. The resolution, however, was adopted and the delegates from Canada and New Brunswick had no reason to suppose it had been otherwise than properly obtained. It had been alleged that it had been carried by improper means, but with that we had nothing to do. The resolutions passed in the Legislature of New Brunswick were very similar. He did not think that the argument from Nova Scotia founded on the way in which the Union had been consummated was of force now to break it up. But it was alleged as another reason for repeal that