

people, being taken up and protected by the Government. The mere fact that Ministers were desirous of conciliation was useless, unless some better proof than after-dinner speeches were given of such a desire. We should take warning for the error in Government which had to-day made Ireland the standing Nemesis of England, and should take care that we did not take upon our hands a second Ireland by persisting in a policy which, however honest, is mistaken and aggravating.

Mr. Blake was one of those who believed this Union could not be maintained if there existed a permanent feeling of discontent in any considerable portion of any of the Provinces now united, and his opinion was there would be little use in attempting to prolong such an unwilling Union. This being the case, the action of the Government in this matter was unfortunate, as it tended to influence ill feeling in one of the Provinces. As to the legislation of the early part of the session, leaving out the case of Nova Scotia and looking only to New Brunswick, what was the result of it in that Province? That a strong feeling had grown up against it there—that bad as things were before, they had become ten times worse. To what was this to be attributed? To the legislation of last session which was inflicted on those people. The House was told the flour tax was of little consequence to those people. But, clearly, the interest of the Dominion did not demand the imposition of the tax, and the people of Nova Scotia were strongly averse to it—and what he held was that when the almost unanimous feeling in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia was declared to be against that measure, as one calculated to do mischief, it should not have been imposed. It had been imposed, and by that legislation the Dominion had been seriously compromised. The wishes of the representatives of the Maritime Provinces had been disregarded in the matter. Faith had not, it was held, been kept with the people of those Provinces, and hence the strong feelings excited against a Union in which their wishes were not respected. Then came the action of the Government in sending home an envoy to enter into a strife for the maintenance of the Union Act. In arriving at that conclusion the Government ought to have sought to take action in as conciliatory a mode as possible. But the delegate chosen by this professionally conciliatory Government, sent home to argue the

[*Mr. Huntington (Shefford).*]

cause of Union, a man who, rightly or wrongly, was held by the Nova Scotians to be a traitor to his country—the man who was primarily responsible for the present state of affairs in that Province against which its inhabitants protested. While he (**Mr. Blake**) should have been disposed in every way possible to allow **Dr. Tupper** to go and defend himself, he (**Mr. Blake**) utterly denied that **Dr. Tupper** should have been sent as the envoy of Canada. By the Order-in-Council it was said **Dr. Tupper** went home simply to give and receive information on the subject; but he (**Mr. Blake**) was mistaken if the people of Nova Scotia would not be convinced **Dr. Tupper** was sent home to thoroughly espouse that cause which was so distasteful to them. He (**Mr. Blake**) therefore regretted that this course, rightly characterized as one of folly, should have been taken by the Ministry.

Mr. T. R. Ferguson denied that after the statements made here no conciliation would be accepted by Nova Scotia short of absolute repeal, it could be fairly supposed that any other delegate who might be selected would give greater satisfaction to the Anti-Union party. This party had no real grounds for their opposition, but had made complaints of their position before any legislation had taken place here at all. It had been shown clearly that, even if Union had never taken place at all, additional Nova Scotia taxation would have been inevitable, but now the very flour tax, which had been imposed upon them by their own Legislature without remonstrance, had been made a monstrous grievance when the representatives of the other Provinces agreed to share it themselves. This flour tax, amounting only to \$25 upon \$1,000, was no greater burden upon trade than that borne willingly by tavern keepers here. The loyalty that fled from such an imposition to annexation with the United States was not very strong. The Government had, in the early part of the Session, stated that they were prepared to consider some modifications in this intolerable tariff, but without waiting for any announcement of their intentions in this direction, they had uttered protests here of the indifference displayed to their desires. For his part, if they were determined to insist upon being permitted to enjoy the misfortune of separation from the Dominion, he for one would not be inclined to use any tyranny to retain them, but would permit them to live contentedly at home without any Intercolonial Railway or other advantages to be derived from their connection with the other Provinces. He did not at all believe that New