

Nova Scotia they sing an entirely different song, and in order to explain the difference I want to give the house a little bit of political history in Nova Scotia in recent years. The question of secession has been brought up in this house two or three times, but in this debate it has been mentioned only by one hon. gentleman, the member for Queens-Lunenburg, who has gone out of his way to introduce it into the discussion. He says I intimated that he was a secessionist. I never intimated anything of the sort.

Mr. ERNST: Sectionalist.

Mr. ILSLEY: Is Hansard wrong?

Mr. ERNST: Yes, it is corrected in the revised Hansard.

Mr. ILSLEY: I am going by unrevised Hansard. The context, however, shows that my hon. friend must have had reference to secession, because he goes on to talk about the policy of the Halifax Chronicle and declares that secession never received support from members on his side of the house. What then was he talking about if not secession? But I am not particularly concerned about having the matter cleared up, although I think it is just as well to have the record straight. Let me say that there is not a member on this side of the house who has ever advocated secession in the province of Nova Scotia. But the same is not true of hon. gentlemen to the left of the Speaker. I would refer to that chapter in the history of the Conservative party in the province of Nova Scotia in the year 1923 with reference to this question. In that year the Conservative opposition in the Nova Scotia legislature sponsored and introduced a motion known as the Corning resolution, the last recital of which I wish to read:

And whereas, Nova Scotia if an independent, self-governing British dominion, would be able to protect its farmers, fishermen and industrial workers through tariff measures and trade treaties, thus preserving its home markets and furnishing employment to its people and profitable investment for capital, and build up the enterprise and population of the province.

Therefore resolved, that in the opinion of this house a vote of the electors of Nova Scotia should be taken by way of referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the people of this province favour its withdrawal from confederation and the reconstitution of Nova Scotia as an independent, self-governing British dominion.

Every Liberal member voted against that resolution; every Conservative member voted for it. And amongst the Conservative members who voted for the resolution, according to the Journals of the House of Assembly of

[Mr. Ilesley.]

Nova Scotia, at page 262—the vote was taken on April 20, 1923—I find the name of the same Mr. Macdonald who pounds his desk so vigorously on the other side of the house when he considers that hon. gentlemen opposite make a point.

Mr. ERNST: Will the hon. gentleman permit a question? On what did Mr. Fielding conduct his campaign in 1882?

Mr. ILSLEY: I am not talking about events at the time of confederation or twenty years after confederation; I am talking about what happened within the last five years in Nova Scotia. Now we come down a little later in the history of politics in that province, to the provincial election of 1925, and I want to tell the house this because it bears directly on the question of emigration and immigration. Early in 1925 we had a provincial election which was largely fought on the emigration question. Hon. E. N. Rhodes entered provincial politics in that year. The Conservative campaign was based on this, that the cause of the emigration from the province of Nova Scotia was the policy of the provincial Liberal government for the last forty-three years; in other words emigration was definitely taken out of the field of Dominion responsibility and made a provincial responsibility by the Conservative party at that time. They promised that if they were returned to power they would "bring the boys back;" that slogan was then coined by the Conservative party, and I can remember picking up issues of the Halifax Herald and reading those very touching full page advertisements. I remember particularly an advertisement which represented some travellers going along a New England highway. In the distance they heard strains of music; four men were singing:

There's a long long trail a-winding,
Into the land of my dreams;
Where the nightingales are singing
And a white moon beams.

Upon investigation they found that these four men were Nova Scotians, singing this song with sobs in their voices and tears in their eyes. When the travellers asked them, "If you love your native province so much, why do you not go back?" Their answer was that forty-three years of Liberal misrule had driven them away and made them exiles from their native land, and they had to wait for a change in government before going back. We have had the change of government in Nova Scotia, but Mr. Rhodes and his government have not brought back the boys.

If you want a testimonial as to conditions in the province of Nova Scotia just listen to