

HIS GRANDCHILDREN MAY TELL THEIR PARENTS



ALL ABOUT IT IN 1967

When the B. N. A. Act was passed by the British Parliament he was still fighting it. He fought to have it repealed. Then the genius of Macdonald flanked by Tupper got in its work. Howe eventually became Secretary of State in the Coalition Government that took office at Ottawa under Macdonald in 1867.

But he never liked Ottawa. And he did very little for the new federation which he did not help to create. In 1873 he became governor of Nova Scotia, 36 years after he had asked Her Majesty to remove Colin Campbell from that office. In the same year he died.

FORTY-TWO years after Howe was buried in Halifax, Sir Charles Tupper was buried there. The war-horse of Cumberland who had first defeated Howe in 1852 put in a much longer term as the servant of his country than the man who gave it responsible government. History has not yet decided which was the greater man. Tupper's fight with Howe is the most interesting of his life, and quite as spectacular as some of Macdonald's great battles in a bigger field. Tupper first met Macdonald at the Quebec Conference, in 1865; was a born campaigner, a fighter on principle and a great constitutional advocate. It was Tupper who fought Howe from being an open foe of Confederation to becoming a member of the Federal Cabinet. Any man who could turn that trick with so great a fighter and such a pet of the people as Howe must himself have been very nearly a great man. His death is too close yet for a real perspective on his character in history. If he had never done more than get Howe into Macdonald's Federal Cabinet he would have deserved a monument. And he had a task that would have beaten even Macdonald, who had the genius to keep Tupper on the firing line in Nova Scotia, Tilley, in New Brunswick, and Cartier, in Quebec. Howe, the champion of the British connexion, bearded the British lion in his den when, after the B. N. A. Act was made law, he refused to accept the ruling of the Imperial Parliament. He would not have Nova Scotia torn from direct Imperial

connexion and made a part of Canada. He openly ridiculed Ottawa and praised London. He headed the greatest campaign of his life for the repeal of the B. N. A. Act. He converted the Legislature of Nova Scotia into a solid repeal body. He stumped the province and made every one of the 19 Federal M. P.'s an anti confederate—

Except Tupper. And this one warrior went out alone to fetch in Howe on his saddle. When Howe, after organizing the Province against the Federal Union, went to England to lay the case at the foot of the throne if need be—Tupper was there. They met. It was Tupper who hunted up Howe and told him plainly that he was wrong. Nova Scotia should not secede. The Union must be upheld. The principle of Canada was bigger than the principle of Nova Scotia. Ottawa was more important than Halifax; for all any one in those days knew it might become to Canada more important than London.

It was a memorable argument, these two Canadians in London, one to get Confederation repealed, the other to drag Howe to the Ottawa that he despised, to make him not only cease to agitate and organize against the Union, but to come back to Canada like a good citizen, go up to Ottawa and accept a seat in the Cabinet clean against his whole campaign in his native Province and against the citizenship that had made an idol of him.

The passion for selfgovernment was strong in Nova Scotia. It was Howe who had made it so. Howe was the last rock of the responsible government regime to give in. But he succumbed. Tupper, with the generalship of Macdonald and his own amazing tenacity of purpose, had done it. The little doctor whom Howe had compared to a cat on the fence, in 1852, as much a native son of Nova Scotia as Howe, as passionately patriotic and as fond of politics, had beaten the giant at last.

And Tupper's work at that point had only really begun. He lived nearly fifty years after that, and did another man's life work as the champion of a transcontinental railway, and the National Policy, and the Imperial Commission; in Ottawa, in Halifax, in London, as High Commissioner, as tirelessly as

