

if they imagined that the conditions of the Union should be alterable at the will of this Parliament? . . . What Parliament did on that occasion it may at some future time undo. The additional subsidy given to Nova Scotia did not rest upon the same secure basis as the original subsidy provided for in the Union Act." "This Constitution is a compact between the provinces, and the Imperial Act expressly states that its object is to ratify that treaty . . . and it is a manifest breach of that partnership for this Parliament to interfere and take the common stock to apply to local purposes not common to the whole." "By the assumption by the Parliament of Canada of the power claimed, the former evils so far from being removed by Confederation will be intensified, the just expectations of the people will be disappointed, sectional strife will be aroused, the Federal principle will be violated, and the constitution will be shaken to its base."

Sir John Macdonald, more inclined to extend the powers of the central government, and therefore to construe the constitution more broadly, declared that "the House had still the power of spending its money as it saw fit. It had a right to do what it liked with its own; to raise such revenues as it thought proper, to expend that money as it thought proper, and to misuse it if it thought proper. No authority could prevent it and it would be an infringement of the principles of responsible government if the case were otherwise. The British North America Act contained the same words as did the Act of 1791, which