

I admit, sir, that we do anticipate advantages from the building of at least a portion of this road, and in all the negotiations respecting its construction, we in Nova Scotia, have always been willing to contribute our fair share. Taking the work as originally contemplated and as now proposed in the Act of Union to connect the St. Lawrence with the City of Halifax, it will be seen that we have already built sixty miles, which is more than our share, and not only have we built sixty miles, but we had actually contracted for the building of about twenty miles more than our share of the balance from Truro to Riviere du Loup. So that, if you here in Canada, desired the Intercolonial Railway, either for your own or general purposes, all that was required of you was to build your share according to population. That the road has not been built is your fault, not ours. But, Mr. Speaker, this railway has been a powerful argument with the Union Candidates of Cumberland and Colchester. Surveyors and engineers were continually moving about the various villages on the pretence of seeking the best location, and almost every man had the promise of the road at his door. I do not, however, detain the House with the recital of the various influences used by our opponents to carry the election. That they all failed should prove conclusively by that the people of Nova Scotia have a deep feeling of aversion to Confederation. So deep and strong is this feeling, that they are determined to seek by all constitutional means to be relieved from its operation. They do not expect it from this Parliament, and therefore, we have not presented our case in the manner we should, had we hoped for redress here. Our hopes are on the other side of the water. It may be, that we shall be disappointed. If so, I shall not venture to speculate the effect upon the minds of the people. One thing, however, is certain, that in case of failure very much will depend upon the line of policy pursued by the Confederate Government towards the people of Nova Scotia, whether their feelings of hostility shall be strengthened and intensified, or calmed into passive submission. Our loyalty has been spoken of in this debate, and no man now seems to question it, although during the canvass, we were on all occasions charged with disloyalty, because we did not quietly submit to what we believe to be a sacrifice of our interests and rights. Even the honourable member for Cumberland, in the speech just delivered, withdraws the charge, but reasserts that we had the sympathy and support of all who seek the overthrow of

[Mr. McLellan (Colchester)]

British institutions. We do not know upon what authority the honourable gentleman speaks. When I saw the statement reported in his first address to this House, it occurred to me that probably the honourable member spoke from a personal knowledge, and a more intimate acquaintance with the sympathies of that class of persons to whom he refers than any Anti-Confederate cares to cultivate. No, Mr. Speaker, it is not in a spirit of disloyalty that we seek to relieve Nova Scotia from the operations of this Act, but because we believe that the interests of our Province will be best served by allowing her to manage her own affairs and control her own revenues. So long as our connection with the Mother Country exists, and God grant that it may long continue, we see no necessity for a connection such as this, which must inevitably result in a conflict of interests. Our people desire to live in peace with you, and to cultivate only those feelings of friendship which should exist between Provinces of the same Empire. We have a Province, small it may be, but with resources which if properly developed, as they only can be by having control of our own means, would soon place us in a position which it should be your pride to see a sister Province occupy. You, too, have a country containing many of the elements of prosperity and greatness, which only requires wise management and an economical disposal of your means to attain. We who come up from the Lower Provinces, cannot but be surprised at the extent of your country, and the progress you have made. You have public works highly creditable to you. I do not so much mean these expensive buildings in which we are assembled, as those more useful works which tend to facilitate internal communication and traffic. That wonderful bridge stretching across the St. Lawrence at Montreal is a work of which any country might well be proud. The eye never wearies with it, but the mind finds it difficult to realize that it is the result of human skill and enterprise. I remember on first passing beneath it that I felt almost like bowing, the head uncovered, as if in the presence of something so grand and sublime that the finger of God himself must have touched and formed it. What we desire is to be unfettered and free, to develop our own resources, and at the same time to see you building up a country worthy of the noble foundations which have been laid. We do not want to see in you the cold statue, void of blood described by the honourable member for Saint John, nor yet a ghastly skeleton, but a brother with the bounding