

Archibald, said at a banquet in Montreal at the same time:

The time had come when we were about to assume the position of a great nation and such being the case, we should not shrink from its responsibilities. . . . A united nation, we shall become a great country, and the time is not far distant when a colossal power, growing up on the continent, shall stand with one foot on the Pacific and the other on the Atlantic, and shall present to the world even on this side of the Atlantic, the proof that monarchical institutions are not inconsistent with civil and religious liberty and the fullest measure of material advancement.

The voice of Nova Scotia first uttered the proposition that this Dominion would spread from ocean to ocean, that this nation, standing with one foot on the Pacific and the other on the Atlantic, would become a colossal power. Yet what conception of this colossal power have hon. friends opposite? How diminutive have their ideas become! How they have shrunk! They are not willing to assume the responsibilities which were carried out for them when their ancestors joined the confederation to become a great British-American nation on this continent. Here are the words of the Hon. T. H. Haviland at Charlottetown:

I believe from all I can learn that the provinces ere long will become a great country and nation from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

A little island, but big men come from there. And he, too, with his colleagues from Nova Scotia, was among the first to utter, without proviso, that we were to be a nation stretching from ocean to ocean. Hon. William MacDougall, a delegate from Canada West, as it was then called, said:

He thought that a nation would be formed possessing no ordinary capabilities.

And Hon. Jonathan McCully, a great Liberal in the province of Nova Scotia, a very distinguished man in political life and afterwards a very eminent judge, said in Toronto, on November 16, 1884:

Nova Scotians were not in all respects situated as Canadians are. Very many of them derive their living from the fisheries and by navigation. They were very much upon the ocean.

Their march is on the bounding wave,
Their home is on the sea.

Their hope was that some portion of the population had not perhaps advanced in education equally with the population of Upper Canada, but they were brave seamen, and no people could be great without the sea, and Nova Scotia would offer her seamen for common defence. The country that was not worth defending was not worth living in. The people of Nova Scotia would be prepared to con-

tribute their quota for common defence, and he hoped that all would combine their energies for the purpose of building up an American empire which would withstand all the winds and storms of the future.

Hon. Mr. Carter, who was a delegate from Newfoundland to the Quebec conference, said:

You want the maritime element and we are able to give it to you. You may, by and by, require seamen to man your navy, and you will not be able to get them more readily anywhere than in the provinces by the sea and in Newfoundland.

But, Sir, I now come to the utterances of another distinguished man from Prince Edward Island, a representative of the race that never lacks courage, the Irish race. I quote Hon. Edward Whelan. Speaking at a public banquet given to the delegates in Montreal, on the 29th of November, 1864, he said:

In our separate and disjointed condition we have not been, and never can be, treated with due respect by our powerful foreign neighbours. Even England is concerned for our feeble and defenceless state, and gently chides us for our apparent supineness and indifference. The confederation, if perfected will remove that stain and give all the colonies a national and individual character. It will be seen that we are willing to struggle and make sacrifices for our own protection; and then, should an evil day and evil counsels bring a conflict upon us, we may rest assured that the red right arm of Britain will be bared to aid us in repelling aggression.

These sentiments were received with loud cheers.

He had seen, only a few days ago, an able article in the London Telegraph—a paper of great influence and ability—in which this view was clearly set forth—that England would be always willing to help us if we first helped ourselves. Alluding to the proposed federation the writer said: 'Firmly believing that the project will be immensely beneficial to the colonies, we are convinced that it will be equally acceptable to the home Government. As the matter already stands, England is committed to the protection of every acre of her soil, be it on the Indus, the Murray, the St. Lawrence or the Thames. Doubtless the responsibility is great, doubtless the work is arduous; but the duty exists. The best way, indeed, to lighten it, is to call upon our colonies themselves to take measures for their own defence, assuring them that whenever the odds are too heavily against them, whenever the danger becomes serious, we pledge the British Empire to their aid.'

Sir, is not that a forecast of the policy of the Liberal party in connection with this subject?

I come now to the utterances of Hon. George Brown. I need not stop to tell this House that Hon. George Brown was the man who, having for almost a lifetime,