

only constitutional mode, as we considered, under responsible Government, by which this question should have been decided, more particularly as the Province of New Brunswick had been appealed to on the question, and the voice of the people respected, and on their refusing to accept the Quebec plan of Confederation the further consideration of the subject was deferred until after a second election, when it received the people's sanction and acceptance; this was the manner in which the leader of the Government of that Province respected the rights of the people of New Brunswick. I did not question the legal right of our representatives to carry through this measure, for I know that they were the legal guardians of those rights, and that we had placed them in their keeping with every confidence in their integrity to preserve the same, but at the same time, although they had the legal right, I did not for a moment think, they would assert that right, and force it through without an appeal to the people of Nova Scotia, but, Mr. Speaker, they did so, and until the Act received the Imperial sanction, I felt that it would be passed upon by the people before it became the law, and that the people of Nova Scotia would receive the same consideration and justice that the colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island had, and that their views and opinions would be respected in this matter. I ask why Nova Scotia should not have the privilege to accept or reject this Confederation as the people chose, as well as those other colonies. Are her people not intelligent enough to pass upon a question of such importance to their happiness and welfare? I know men have been hanged who have been innocent of the crime for which they suffered, and the law authorized the act, but still no one would say it was right, and so in this case the law upheld the act, but is it right, to a free people under a responsible government to be forced into a Union so entirely distasteful and repugnant to their sympathies and feelings. I will not detain the House at this late hour with going over the subjects which have been brought again and again under their notice, but will consider a few points which have not received much consideration, but which are and will be an interference with rights and privileges which have been enjoyed for a century by our people, or particularly by the people in the County I have the honour to represent. I allude to the leasing of our river fisheries, which must take place under the Union Act. When the laws are consolidated the poor people under this Act will have to

pay for setting a net and catching a salmon, and I can assure you it will be a severe tax to make the poor net-fisher pay the bounty, to the man who owns a vessel and fishes in the deep seas. And another objection is, we do not consider the amount we are to receive for our local wants at all sufficient to supply the necessary means to carry out the requirements of those services and keep them up to their present efficiency. Mr. Speaker, we are told we are a new nationality; for my own part I am satisfied with the old flag and our old institutions, and do not think we in Nova Scotia care to change and come into this new nation, more particularly in the manner of our admission, and also knowing, as we do, some of the many difficulties, both physical and political, under which you were suffering, and that this was the plan adopted to remove those troubles, and use us as a make-weight to relieve some of them. In your physical relations, shut out from the sea (except through an enemy's country) for five months in the year and dependent upon suffering for access to the coast to that country, rendered your position perilous in the extreme, and then with equal representation from the two great Canadian families, your political troubles were of no slight character. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a great deal about loyalty, and we in Nova Scotia are proud of ours and also are proud of our patriotism, and feel that we are loyal to our Queen and country, and in this we will not yield to any one. We have the names of Nova Scotians to which we can point with the finger of pride, and who have earned for themselves a place amongst the heroes of the age, and placed their names upon the scroll of fame. We may speak of an Inglis, a Cunard, a Ritchie, and a number of others; but the cry of disloyalty and Fenians comes with a very bad grace from a people whose antecedents have not always been marked by the greatest respect for the representative of royalty, (and now, Mr. Speaker, I would say that if this subject had not been alluded to before, I would be very sorry to bring it here), it can never be said to us that we pelted our Governor-General through the streets, or burned our Parliament Buildings, or what I believe to be true, never left unpaid losses incurred by loyal men in defence of their country. A great deal of ingenuity has been used to prove to us that the Confederate minority at the last elections in Nova Scotia was but very slight. We will not stop to dispute that, but when we look around this House and see eighteen members out of nine-