

operation of this constitution than through its repeal. But let not the House tell them that the measures adopted to revolutionize them against their will were all right. He begged to move an amendment to the amendment, the following:—

That considering the discontent which is alleged to prevail in Nova Scotia in consequence of the passage of the British North American Act of 1867, it is desirable that this House should form itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the grievances of which the people of that Province complain.

Sir G. E. Cartier said the resolutions of the member for Lunenburg were objectionable in several particulars. The House was asked to go into Committee to consider certain facts and matters, a great part of which they might have heard of as matters of notoriety, but of which they had not that authentic knowledge which a Parliament ought to have before arriving at any conclusion.

Mr. E. M. McDonald said the Government and the House were in possession of the address which had been passed by the Legislature of Nova Scotia.

Sir G. E. Cartier said the House was no doubt aware that the Local Parliament of Nova Scotia had passed an Address; but as to other facts set forth in these resolutions they had no knowledge—for instance, that a petition against Confederation had been signed by 40,000 inhabitants of Nova Scotia. He denied, moreover, that the Union Act was passed without the consent of the people of Nova Scotia. It was passed with their consent, as expressed by their representatives and by the Ministry of the day. He denied that submitting such a matter to a popular vote would have been in accordance with the principles of the British Constitution. If the people were not satisfied with the conduct of their representatives they should have acted in such manner as to upset the Government of the day, and to bring about a change of its policy. When the people of Nova Scotia complained of not having been properly treated, he asked them to look back twenty-eight years, and see how the Union of the two Canadas was brought about, without Lower Canada having been consulted either through vote of its people, or the voice of any Legislative body.

After the recess,

CANADIAN LAKE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. Morrison introduced a Bill to incorporate the Canadian Lake Underwriters' Association—ordered to be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA

Mr. Abbott moved the second reading of the Bill for the amalgamation of the Commercial and Merchants' Bank—ordered for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole to-morrow.

BILLS FROM THE SENATE

The Speaker announced Bills from the Senate constituting the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and the Bill providing for the wife and children of the late Mr. McGee without amendment.

NOVA SCOTIA SENTIMENT

Sir Geo. E. Cartier resumed his argument against the motion of Mr. E. M. McDonald, repeating that this House could not be expected to agree to the proposition, that the people of Nova Scotia had given no consent to the Union, which had been based upon the action of their own legitimate mouthpiece, the Legislature of the Province, which it was contrary to the principles of the British constitution to ignore in favour of appeals, which no Ministerial crisis had rendered necessary, to the judgment of the constituencies. To lay down the rule that Parliament should thus abrogate its functions upon each occasion of unusual moment would be to assume as governing principles theories peculiar to pure democracy. The proposition of the honourable member for Chateauguay seemed to assert that the Imperial Government had dealt differently with the several Maritime Provinces, and evinced a consideration for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island which had been denied to Nova Scotia. Such had not been the case. Each Province had been dealt with, and this principle was specially laid down in the Union Act, in accordance with the expressed desires of their several Legislatures. This question, however, was not one coming fitly under discussion here. If it could be contended that this House had inflicted injurious legislation upon Nova Scotia, they might properly be called upon to.