

because "speech is silver, but silence is golden;" but when you are urged by being prodded here and there, it very naturally occurs to you to make some remarks which your friends and other persons may read. While there have been good men all about, the lower provinces are not represented in the Cabinet. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are without representation. Where is the security of the Union Government if they cannot take in representatives of some of these provinces? The Government must have considered them of no use, or would not have them, or else the Government was afraid to open up the constituencies. It is of little use for us to speculate as to what the nation is thinking of, but I tell you that if there were an election to-morrow—not that I wish it—the opponents of the Government would sweep this country. I could refer you to men, some of them under this very roof, who would tell you the same thing.

Reference has been made to the debt of Canada. The question is, how are we going to pay it? As the president of a bank once said, unless you have money in the bank, you cannot take money out. I agree with the honourable gentleman from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Roche) that our currency can be restored to a gold basis only by economy and by progress in development. Look at the middle man to-day. Coal is now being sold at \$20 a ton, and if this were the time and the place, I could tell you something of what is going on in this respect. And the price of \$20 is for a short ton, 2,000 pounds. Think of the man who has a wife and babies dependent upon him and who is in want. If you talk to him of the beauties of our Parliament Buildings and the greatness of our leaders, his answer is: "Bosh! rubbish!"

I will not discuss the question of our part in the war, although I have my own ideas on the subject. However, our present situation is such that it is the duty of all who desire to serve their country to do what they can to bring it out of this Slough of Despond.

Canada is entering upon a new career. Some honourable gentlemen have spoken about our autonomy. Well, I do not know what it is. We are in an unfortunate position because of the absence of our Prime Minister. If he were here he might enlighten us on the subject—he might tell us something we do not know. But, unfortunately he has been in poor health, like myself. But I am here to do my duty, and I do not care whether my vote is Liberal or Conservative, for my only

watchword is "Canada." I will not be led astray by any highfalutin cries in favour of this person or of that. We are entering upon a new era. Ireland has two Parliaments; Scotland is looking for a Parliament now; the Church of England is disestablished in Wales. What is the meaning of this? It means that people want to govern themselves and not be controlled by others. In Canada we have no democracy, but there is a great deal of extravagance. Money is spent freely and easily, for it consists only of pieces of paper. It is said that the wealthy people must be rewarded. Politics is just a game, as it has always been. But there is a higher plane. The world is dissatisfied. The people are becoming educated by means of the press, which is the greatest missionary we have to-day. Through the press the people may obtain a fair education. In the Illustrated London News, for instance, you may learn something of central Africa and the manners and customs of the people there. Twenty or thirty years ago we used to hear of the Mountain of the Moon, with an elevation of, I think, 6,000 feet. There are 28,000,000 people there, and they can grow anything from strawberries to cotton, and now there is a railway running through to Cairo. How can you, with your high prices, compete with wheat that will cost 5 cents a bushel? How can you compete with cotton that costs almost nothing? You must remember that John Bull is pretty clever. For instance, he has turned over to us the Grand Trunk railway.

As my honourable friend has pointed out, our debt is now two billion dollars as a result of the war, and the cost of living is higher than ever. Prices must be brought down in some way or there will be a revolution in this country. If you crush down the poor people and they see John Brown, who is no better than themselves, made Lord Brown, or whatever it may be, and they will say that no consideration has been given to themselves and their families. This is what is going on in all classes of society.

The question might be asked, "Where are we under Confederation?" Our ideal was that under Confederation all would be well. We could not see what was going to happen. Newfoundland was wise enough to keep out. We are hewers of wood and drawers of water. The time has come for the labourers and the farmers to have their turn in office. That is happening all over the world. The salvation of the world lies in the education of the people so that they