

to embrace the trade of the Atlantic. None could make so fair a head as Prince Edward Island. This national body will want a trunk and we in Canada having the grand trunk can afford to be the trunk of the nation. The two Canadas will stretch with their toes far out to the West and bring as much as possible of the western territory into the confederation.

When we are united in a system of federal government, one of the most important questions that will be submitted to us will be the defence of the country. As it is now, we have each of us the will and determination to defend ourselves if attacked; but can we do so at present with efficiency? Take for instance Prince Edward Island, or Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick or the Canadas—can they defend themselves or help England in their defence, whilst separated as they are? No, but united, one of the questions with which the general government must deal will be that of defence.

We know very well that united the militia of the provinces could turn out to the number of at least 200,000; and then, with the 60,000 sailors that the Canadas and the maritime provinces could provide to help the army and navy of England what power would be crazy enough to attack us.

Those were words big with hope; those were words big with faith at a time in the history of our country when our population was widely scattered. This man was not of the British race; he was a descendant of his Mother France; yet he had the courage, the conviction and the faith to say that, with our 200,000 militia and 60,000 sailors gathered from the shores of the Atlantic and in Quebec, we could withstand any foe that might assail us. When I think of the deterioration in the great party that prides itself on being descended from a Cartier, when I think of its pessimism, I can only wonder when I consider the capacity of Canada with its eight millions of people to-day in comparison with the hopes and aspirations of the men of that day. I sometimes think that we should blush with shame at the thought of our degradation. He speaks of the 60,000 sailors that the provinces could provide to help the army and navy of England, and says: What power would be crazy enough to attack us? But Sir George Cartier went from Halifax to the city of St. John in my own native province, and there he said in part:

With regard to the question of defence which was inseparable from the general subject, he was confident that when England realized we were self-reliant to a great extent and capable of organizing a large military and naval force for mutual protection, and which union would only enable us to do, she would cheerfully come to our assistance with all her vast power, in any difficulty that might arise.

Such were the words of these two great statesmen, the one representing the great province of Ontario as it is now known,

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and the other representing the great province of Quebec in this Dominion of our confederacy. Associated with these utterances was a tone of defiance on the part of these gentlemen. Why? Because the old Family Compact and many others during the struggle for responsible government, charged that those who were seeking to bring about these developments were separatists and disloyal. The same is true with respect to the proposal to become a confederated nation of British North America colonies, a free and independent nation under the British flag, and the same charge was made against the proposition that if you did it, it would lead to independence, that it meant the severance of the ties of Empire. They even argued that not merely independence would follow, but that annexation as well would come in its train. That was their argument. These hon. gentlemen, when they went to the maritime provinces, felt constrained to take an attitude of conciliation, or rather an attitude of assurance with respect to that, to tell them that no such thing was in view, to tell them that with the broadening of responsible self-government, every added independence given to the colonies meant binding together with stronger ties these colonies to the Motherland. The same argument is being repeated to-day, when, it is suggested that we could have and should have a Canadian navy.

I have another witness, and I am sure that his utterances will be respected at least in one section of the Dominion. Sir Charles Tupper, then Hon. Doctor Tupper, at a board of trade dinner held in Quebec on the 15th of October, 1865, said in part:

I believe that a blow struck which would assail the property or liberty of British America would bring into action all the power of the British Crown—all the force of that magnificent army and gallant navy on which we confidently rely for protection. But at the same time the fact that this is the temper of the British mind, the sentiment of the British Empire, instead of rendering us supine and indifferent, should serve us with increased vigour to place ourselves in the position in which we can best co-operate with the brave army and gallant navy of Great Britain for the defence of this portion of the British Empire.

Those remarks in the city of Quebec on that occasion were received with great cheers. He explained that the voice of faction was hushed in the attempt that was being made to confederate those provinces together with the idea of building a nation, for the development of its rich resources and for the defence and protection of the land and of those great resources. Hon. Adams G. Archibald, who was then leader of the Liberal opposition in the House of Assembly in the province of Nova Scotia, and who afterwards became Sir Adams