

RA 398

C3

P68

1714

1874

With the birth of the Dominion came the birth of the Canadian Medical Association, and at its first session in Quebec in 1867 under the presidency of Dr. Tupper, now the veteran Sir Charles Tupper, the question was introduced and discussed and a Bill was actually framed about two years later to test the question in the Canadian Parliament. So many obstacles appeared to be in the way that the scheme was dropped, so far as the active political leaders were concerned. When I mention that Sir Charles Tupper, a prominent member of our profession in his day, and a prominent and leading politician as well, felt that the scheme for a Federal Act was out of the question, you will realize that serious difficulties must have been on the horizon. Sir Charles was not a man to be daunted by trifles, and he was always the embodiment of loyalty to our profession.

I may add that years afterward (in the early eighties) I personally went into the matter with him, only to be told that the one and only way to accomplish our desires was by first securing an amendment to the British North America Act in the Imperial Parliament at Westminster—many of my hearers must know what a herculean proposition this would entail.

Our profession, always hopeful, and never pessimistic, kept on bringing the question to the notice of the general body of practitioners as represented by the Canadian Medical Association. From the time I joined the Association in 1879 the point has never once been lost sight of, and it came about that the great mass of practitioners, constantly increasing in numbers and influence, became gradually permeated with a desire for some general scheme that might be called an interprovincial reciprocity, or, roughly, a breaking down of imaginary barriers so far as active practice was concerned.