

completely we then understood the long struggle that was before us, and how clearly we foresaw the ordeal we had to pass. But they could also tell you how well we knew that that ordeal was needful to be passed, and that through agitation and discord victory would certainly be won. (Cheers.) The agitation was speedily carried into the Legislature. We took up the broad ground that on the just settlement of the Representation question rested the future peace and prosperity of Canada—that good government was not to be hoped for until that was accomplished—and from that day to this we have sought to make every question subservient to that—to make every passing event and every political movement conducive to its accomplishment. (Cheers.) A very small band was there of us when we commenced, but our numbers quickly increased. It was not an easy battle we had to fight—it was never at any time an agreeable one—but the end we sought was nothing less than a political revolution—and if success is won—as won I am satisfied it will shortly be—we who have borne the brunt of the battle may well afford to bear calmly and without retort, taunts as to the weapons with which the fight was won. (Cheers.) From the first day the agitation commenced in Parliament our course was onward. From session to session we increased in strength, and each new general election brought us fresh recruits from the people. At last, in 1858, the Government of the day having resigned, the Governor-General entrusted to my hands the formation of a new Administration, and I succeeded in constructing a Government pledged to apply a permanent remedy to the sectional difficulties of the Province. The proposed basis of settlement was Representation by Population, with checks and guarantees for the local interests of Lower Canada. Unfortunately the existing Parliament did not sustain us, and the Governor-General refused us an appeal to the electors.—

MR. JAMES LAW—The double-shuffle!

MR. BROWN—Never mind that. We have forgotten all about double-shuffles now! (Laughter and cheers.) The formation of the Brown-Dorion Administration had, however, this good effect, that it coerced their opponents into action in the same direction. In October, 1858, several prominent members of the Cartier-Macdonald Government were in England, and they addressed a formal despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, calling attention to the grave evils that had arisen under the existing Constitution. The document was signed by Mr. Cartier, Mr. Galt, and Mr. John Ross. It stated that “very grave difficulties now presented themselves in conducting the Government of “Canada”—that “the progress of population had been more rapid in the western section, and claims are now made on behalf of its inhabitants “for giving them representation in the Legislature in proportion to their “numbers”—that “the result is shown by an agitation fraught with “great danger to the peaceful and harmonious working of our constitutional system, and consequently detrimental to the progress of the province”—that this “state of things is yearly becoming worse”—and that the Canadian Government were impressed with the necessity of “seeking “for such a mode of dealing with those difficulties as may forever remove “them.” Gentlemen, this was a bold and manly step on the part of the Cartier-Macdonald Government—and I have always given them full credit for it. They admitted our whole case in this document—the existence of a great evil and the necessity of finding a remedy for it. The scheme, I believe, they had in contemplation was a federal union of the whole British American Provinces; but unfortunately they did not proceed with it. We did not let the subject fall, however. In 1859, a Reform Convention was called together at Toronto, to consider the constitutional