

ascertained and respected on this question. Is it any wonder then that the people of Nova Scotia feel indignant at the conduct of their Government in forcing them to accept this Union without consulting their wishes, more especially when they see grave objections in the terms of this Union, and serious ground to apprehend that their interests will suffer. In Nova Scotia we have had but little personal intercourse with the people of Canada, but as fellow-colonists, subjects of the same sovereign and living beneath the same flag, we felt an interest in their welfare, but believed that each Province could best promote its individual interests by preserving its own identity. Looking at the Provinces included in this Act of Confederation we find interests so distinct and separate that there will be a tendency to sectional legislation, which too often produces a conflict of interests and a sacrifice of the weaker. You have included an extent of country that cannot be moved by any one interest or influence any more than the agitation of one pool can be made to move the waters of separate and distinct pools. Sometimes you have storm and shipwreck upon your lakes here, whilst we have calm and sunshine down in the Lower Provinces, and so do we feel that you will have political storms and tempests in which the interests of our little Province will be shipwrecked. We also object to Confederation on the ground that it will greatly increase the expense of Legislation and Government to the whole Provinces. Five Governments have been organized to do the work performed hitherto by three. Besides our people felt that the promoters of this scheme had become so excited over the idea of a new nationality—a new Dominion—that they would incur expenditures which would largely increase the burdens of the people. In this respect, so far as we have the evidence, their fears are to be realised. The salary of the Governor-General has been increased about \$19,000. The honourable member for Cumberland asserts that it was necessary to have this increase to secure the best talent of England to work out the new system. How does the honourable member reconcile this assertion with the fact that we have the same man, and are now paying to him fifty thousand dollars, while formerly he received but thirty-one thousand? Does he mean to say that the noble Lord did not hitherto give to the administration of public affairs the full powers of his intellect? Does he wish us to compare him to a machine in which there are wheels and powers never before used—to liken him to an engine that has only been working hitherto at half power,

[Mr. McLellan (Colchester)]

and that this increase of salary is to cause the engine to work at its full capacity? Sir, I mistake it you have not had questions arising in the Government of Canada during the past years which required the exercise of the whole powers of mind of those at the head of affairs. The honourable member for St. John would have us infer from his remarks that it is necessary to prevent corruptions, and reminds us that the widow of the late President is accused of having accepted presents as bribes for place and office. If the honourable member looking down the roll of names of the illustrious men who have filled the Presidential chair from the days of George Washington to the present time could find no other case to suit his argument, he might have had gallantry enough to have spared a woman whose lawful husband was so occupied with the momentous events of the time as to prevent him giving that attention to his domestic affairs which we see it required. But turning to the list of distinguished men from Durham to Elgin who have governed these Provinces on the smaller salary, or to the lists of Lieutenant-Governors, including some of the best minds in England, with half that salary, you cannot point to one charged with official corruption. Again, see the expense which the unnecessary creation, as many believe, of so many Heads of Departments, will involve. The honourable member for Lennox spoke of the great sacrifice, which he says, the public men of the Provinces made for Union. Looking along the Treasury benches at the smiling faces of the occupants, one feels that it must be a pleasant sacrifice, a happy and profitable kind of martyrdom, for which I have no doubt there has been a considerable rivalry. There are two of the offices now vacant—two altars without an offering, but we must not suppose it is because statesmen cannot be found for the sacrifice, when it is the country only that bleeds. And let us see to what extent. Turning to your official returns I take a number of the Heads of Departments coming first on the list, and find the average cost to be nearly forty thousand dollars, this multiplied by thirteen will show that in the sacrifice spoken of by the honourable member, the country will be bled to the extent of half a million dollars. The honourable member for Cumberland, however, advises retrenchment, and that the two vacant offices be abolished. He should have spared his friend who held the office of Home Secretary. He would have the House believe that the people of Colchester were unkind to that honourable gentleman in refusing to elect him, but the