

figures at present, but if they raised the duty to fifteen per cent they would add fifty per cent of a burden upon the commerce of Nova Scotia with the world. This would be a serious blow to the prosperity of his Province, and perhaps it would do little good for Canada, and what the Nova Scotians wanted was that they should be let go. The next subject was that of a uniform postal system. Among his first acts as an Executive Officer, was to communicate with Mr. Lafontaine with respect to postal communication between the Provinces. A conference had been held, and arrangements had been made since, the postal system was placed under Colonial management, whereby a rate of five cents on letters had been established between the Provinces. In Nova Scotia the system had been extended, post offices established in every shire, town, and country village, and way offices on every cross road. But all this was now swept away from the control of Nova Scotia. No poor widow, keeping a forty shilling a year way office can look for appointment or preferment except through the favour of some gentleman in Ottawa. Placed as the representatives of Nova Scotia were, they could not expect to exercise much influence with the Government; there was nothing they could ask from the Government, and nothing which the Government could give that they could honourably accept. After referring to the Intercolonial Railway, and lamenting that the Government of the Dominion had stepped in and taken possession of the railways and public works of Nova Scotia, Mr. Howe referred to the subject of the organization of the militia and defence. Statements had been made through the press of Canada within the past few months, which had created great uneasiness in Nova Scotia. When they were told that every man should be armed they felt that the proposition was a serious one. "The whole people should be armed?" "Armed against whom?" On this continent there was but one possible enemy—and with that one we should be forever at peace. He thought that the urging forward of this measure of Confederation as a menace to the United States, was needlessly to irritate the feelings of those who ought to be on good terms with us. With respect to bankruptcy, he was free to confess that the Nova Scotians had never succeeded in framing a satisfactory law on the subject, and if the Dominion Legislature conferred such a law upon Nova Scotia, so far it will be a good service. With respect to the feelings of the mother country towards this country, what had the London

Times said? It had advocated Confederation, and hoped that it would quickly be followed by independence, and Mr. Gladstone had said that the £3,000,000 guarantee for the Intercolonial was a wedding gift. The Provinces were going to be married, and he hoped the troops would soon be recalled. In a word the feeling of the British people was that if these colonies assume the status, they should also assume all the responsibilities of a nation. After alluding to the remaining paragraphs of the speech, Mr. Howe said in conclusion, the mere parchment does not make a Union, the Act of Parliament does not create harmony. The Act might be acceptable to the Canadians, and why not? They obtain a vast seaboard, they extend their limits, and had they done it fairly and honourably no man with a head on his shoulders would have complained. But the people of his own Province had been tricked into this scheme, and he very much regretted that it had not been approached in a manner which might have led to the perfecting of a measure which would have rendered unnecessary such a speech as he had been compelled to make. Though he did not expect to command a great deal of support from the House, and had no desire to waste the time in a needless debate, he stated that he would move one brief amendment, expressing regret that the measure had not been submitted to the people of Nova Scotia before its adoption. With respect to the measures of the Government while holding a seat in that House he would, if he believed them to be good, support them, or if otherwise, oppose them, but he would seek no factious course to delay the proceedings of the House, or provoke acrimonious feelings among the members. Mr. Howe spoke for about an hour and forty minutes, and was listened to with great attention. He made many capital hits, and was warmly applauded on resuming his seat.

Hon. Dr. Tupper: Mr. Speaker, no member of this House can regret more sincerely than myself that my honourable friend who has just sat down, occupies a position which prevents his great talent from being made available for the advancement of the common interest of the British North American Provinces now united under one Dominion. All who have listened to the eloquent appeal just made to this House must feel how valuable would be the aid which the honourable member could give in promoting the union and consolidation of our common country at this important era in its history. I, Sir, have from the first hour of my public life been an ardent advocate of