

the Dominion what would she become? would she not still remain a Colony of the British Empire, the same as she was prior to Confederation? She had the right to enter, and she has only to adopt constitutional means to retire. I am not saying she has this right, but this is a question for her to decide. The Hon. Joseph Howe opposed Confederation and threatened

TO RESORT TO ARMED RESISTANCE

in case Nova Scotia was asked to enter. My hon. friend opposite will not say that this was not disloyal, yet the same Hon. Joseph Howe was taken by the hand and placed in a seat beside his own Premier. Nobody said he was disloyal. It was all right in that particular case.

A voice from the Opposition—"He repented."

Mr. ROSS—continuing—Yes, when he amended the Constitution and gave an increased subsidy to Nova Scotia. The object was not to protect the country against disloyalty, but if possible to strengthen the hands of the Federal Government, and if this disaffection ceased the result would be brought about. My hon. friend charges us with the trouble in Manitoba. What have we to do with that? The whole basis of this is the monopoly of the Pacific railway. I would not give a button for a man who would not resent such a monopoly. The people of Manitoba, the people of Nova Scotia, are complaining in a legitimate way that there are certain grievances. Do hon. gentlemen opposite not complain of grievances? If they have the right to introduce bills to redress grievances, surely the people or Legislatures of the Provinces have the same right to ask for a remedy without improper motives being imputed to them. But my hon. friend opposite would imply that it is a sort of star chamber for the purpose of destroying the Constitution. The speaker read a portion of Mr. Mercier's address, and commenting thereon said:—I must ask my hon. friend if the attempt to carry out that object was not a proper one. My hon. friend partly admits that they have grievances, and surely if he admits the principle in the one case that a remedy can be applied he will not refuse redress in the other. He would not say that what was applicable to the four Provinces would not be equally suitable to the others when they required redress. No great reform could be obtained without intelligent agitation. His hon. friend (Mr. Meredith) was a free man to-day because of the agitation and the struggles of men fifty years ago. If his hon. friend's views were to be carried out there must be no change in the legislation of the Province. Had they arrived at perfection in legislative matters? Then Parliament

MIGHT BE ABANDONED ALTOGETHER

and the members might go home and enjoy undisturbed the peace and quiet of domestic life. (Applause and laughter.) His learned friend was an anachronism here. He ought to be removed by an order of the House. Legislative perfection had been attained. His hon. friend (Mr. Creighton) might as well close up the doors of The Empire. It was born out of time. (Laughter.) The Government and their friends did not take that view of

political economy. They believed in the law of progress leaving the hon. gentlemen to remain where they were until the crack of doom. His hon. friend (Mr. Meredith) had referred in glowing terms to the inauguration of Confederation. When Confederation was inaugurated he (Mr. Ross) had looked forward with all the enthusiasm of a young man to the future of this country. He was not disappointed with the result except along one line; he feared that the Provinces

HAD NOT BEEN WELDED,

as they ought to have been, into one nation. He did not find everywhere that thorough national Canadian spirit which he had hoped for. He could not account for this. He was willing to co-operate with his hon. friend in removing that obstacle to the progress of the country. Confederation was brought about for a specific purpose, and by the co-operation of both parties, and he was glad to say that the first offer of a surrender of political feelings came from the Liberal side of the House from the Hon. George Brown. (Applause). It was the statesmanship of Mr. Brown that led to the first conference at Charlottetown, and he was no mean figure in the negotiations which led to Confederation. Confederation was obtained by a suspension of party feeling, and the recent conference was exactly like the former one in that respect. Men on both sides of politics met without party feeling, and with the same sincerity as was shown by those who took part in the conference of 1864. His hon. friend was alarmed because amendments of the Constitution were proposed at all. Did he not know that the B. N. A. Act had already been amended in 1871 and afterwards in 1875? If it had been so amended with the sanction of his hon. friend's chief, was it sacrilege for the conference to propose still further amendments? His hon. friend objected to the position which the conference took upon disallowance. In the original draft of the Confederation resolutions it was laid down that local legislation was to be disallowed by the Governor-General in like manner as Dominion legislation was to be disallowed by the Imperial Government. The same principle was to govern disallowance in both cases. Now the only cases in which Dominion legislation had been disallowed by the Imperial were cases where the legislation was ultra vires, or where it was opposed to Imperial policies. Sir John had laid it down that the same principle should be observed in the disallowance of Provincial Acts as in the disallowance of Federal Acts. Todd said that no mere considerations of political expediency or difference of opinion as to the policy of Colonial enactments ought to induce the Crown to use the power of disallowance. Mr. Ross referred to the celebrated opinion given by Sir John in 1868, laying down the rules for the disallowance of Provincial statutes, and said that if the Dominion Government had acted upon those principles there might have been no necessity to ask that the veto power be transferred to the Imperial Government. He also referred to a speech made by Sir John on the question of the New Brunswick