

## Success in Canada West

In Canada, the politicians spent more than a month debating the Québec Conference resolutions. Every member of the Assembly was allowed to speak. One of the most effective speeches was given by George Brown. Brown gave six main reasons why he was in favour of Confederation:

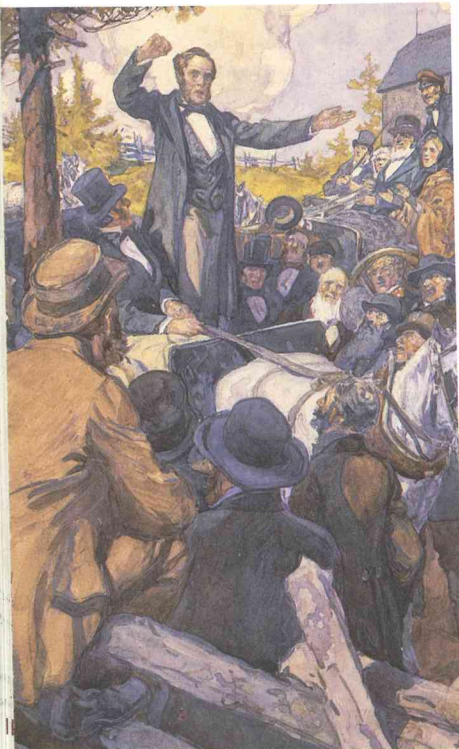
1. Confederation would change them from five unimportant colonies into a great and powerful nation.
2. It would remove the barriers to trade among the colonies and provide a market of four million people.
3. Canada would become the third largest sea-going nation in the world after Britain and the United States.
4. It would encourage people to come from other countries to settle in Canada.
5. Since the United States had cancelled free trade with the colonies, Confederation would provide other markets for their goods.
6. In case of war, all the colonies would stand strong together.

## Success and Tragedy in Canada East

In Canada East, there were bitter critics of the plan for Confederation. The leader of the reformist *Parti Rouge*, A. A. Dorion, complained that at the Québec Conference only 4 of the 33 delegates were French-speaking. The discussions had been carried on entirely in English. Dorion argued that Canada East was being sold out. The new government would be based on representation by population and Canada East would be outnumbered in the new parliament.

Most French-speaking Canadians were eventually won over to the idea of Confederation by George-Étienne Cartier. He explained that in Confederation, French and English would be equal partners. He promised they would not lose their language, religion, or schools. Cartier warned that if Canada East did not join Confederation, it could be swallowed up by the United States.

The Roman Catholic Church added its voice in support of Confederation. But when it came time to vote, 22 of the 48 French-speaking members of the combined Assembly of Canada East and Canada West voted *against* Confederation. A. A. Dorion wanted a **referendum**. This means that all the people of Canada East would be given the chance to vote on the question. Dorion believed that on such an important issue it was not enough just to have the elected members of the Assembly vote. His request was refused by Cartier and the supporters of Confederation. The vote in the Assembly of Canada East and West went in favour of Confederation.



The people of Canada listened to respected leaders like George Brown and John A. Macdonald. When the vote was taken, the resolutions were approved 91 to 33.

George Brown gave many powerful speeches in favour of Confederation. After 1867, he withdrew from politics and gave all his attention to his newspaper, the *Globe*. In 1873, he was appointed to the Senate, but he called it a dreary place because it was so quiet. His life ended in tragedy. Brown had fired an employee for being drunk. The employee burst into the *Globe* offices and shot George Brown. He never recovered from the attack and died on 10 May 1880.