



**Narrator:** And he did win! Joseph Howe and the Reformers won a majority in the 1847 election. The very next year, Nova Scotia became the first colony in British North America to achieve responsible government.

Then, from August 3, 1860 to June 5th, 1863, Joseph Howe served as Premier of Nova Scotia. When he did not get re-elected in 1863, he was appointed by Britain as the Imperial Fisheries Commissioner.

However, things were changing in British North America. Led by Howe's political opponent and the new premier of Nova Scotia, Charles Tupper, political leaders from Nova Scotia started discussions with leaders from New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Canada (Canada East and West). Their goal was to form a united (or confederated) country. Tupper invited Howe to be one of the delegates to the Charlottetown Conference in 1864, but Howe turned him down.

However, by 1866 Howe was a vocal opponent of Confederation. His anti-Confederation views clashed with the views of Charles Tupper during the election campaign in August 1867.

**Tupper:** Well Joe, you simply can't win can you?

**Howe:** Just wait and see.

**Tupper** (amused): You cannot be serious about continuing your opposition to Confederation.

**Howe** (determined): Of course, I recognize that Confederation has been achieved. The British North America Act was passed last month by the British Parliament. But—



**Tupper** (enthusiastic): On July 1st, 1867, Canada became a country! This was a victory for all Canadians!

**Howe**: But not for Nova Scotians!

**Tupper**: Nova Scotia's Parliament voted for Confederation.

**Howe**: The vote was a scandal which never should have happened! You should have put the proposed union to a vote by the people of Nova Scotia and not just by the government leaders.

**Tupper** (indignant): Ridiculous!

**Howe** (firm): Confederation is not a good deal for Nova Scotia.

**Tupper**: And why not?

**Howe**: This union will not bring any concrete benefits to Nova Scotia. We need to build railroads to connect the colonies before we can establish social and economic ties with them.

**Tupper**: That will be done. As part of a country, the colonies will have more economic power.

**Howe** (very concerned): We will be a tiny player on a game board filled with major players. We will be totally controlled by the politicians from Upper and Lower Canada. Who will speak up for Nova Scotia's economic, social and political needs? Confederation can only lead us to disaster.