

from to pay us even this paltry eighty cents a head. We make appropriations for our schools, but even though the sum required may not be in the treasury, the warrants issue just the same. But if the money in the general treasury runs out, it will be for them to say whether the grant of eighty cents a head shall issue for any year, and then what redress have we? None whatever, for we, under this arrangement, become subject to the whim and caprice of Canada.

"In consideration of the surrender to the General Government, by Newfoundland, of all its rights in mines and minerals, and of all the ungranted and unoccupied Lands of the Crown, it is agreed that the sum of \$130,000 shall each year be paid to that Province by semi-annual payments."

Again I would appeal to this House and ask hon. members if they are ready to accept that proposition; if they are ready to subject our people to a burden of ten or fifteen thousand dollars a year to buy up the Crown Lands of Newfoundland, and its mines and minerals, something that does not exist. Why was this done? Was it not a mere colouring to gain over Newfoundland? The whole Crown Lands of Newfoundland are utterly worthless. I don't believe they would support a rabbit. Why does she want to sell her Crown Lands to Canada? I think it is a very bad speculation, and no private person would care to invest his money in those Lands. I do not believe the people of this Province are willing to pay \$10,000 or \$15,000 a year for all time to come for such a purpose. The whole thing was merely a sop to get her into the Union.

"All engagements that may before the Union be entered into with the Imperial Government for the defence of the country shall be assumed by the General Government."

Now before we agree to this we should know what arrangements Canada has entered into. I think this is a dangerous section.

"The communications with the North West Territory, and the improvements required for the development of the trade of the Great West with the Seaboard, are regarded by this Conference as subjects of the highest importance to the Federated Provinces, and shall be prosecuted at the earliest possible period that the state of the finances will permit."

It is evident that Canada is very much interested in the opening of her Canals. This section seems to be extraordinarily worded. It is without doubt put forward for a purpose. As it reads it seems to be nothing but a mere expression of opinion of the Council. Is it so, or is it a part of the Constitution? What does it mean? It means that every work and improvement in Canada is to be a charge on the

General Government, and that we are to be taxed for it; and these works are to be carried on as soon as the finances permit. Let me ask if Canada has the power to increase the taxation by every means as she likes, and her desires are for increased public works. What is there that will cause the finances not to permit of their being proceeded with? Yes, the finances will permit just whenever they choose to tax the people for that very purpose. And more than this, I am led to believe that under this section the purchase money of the Hudson's Bay Territory will be made chargeable also upon the General Government.

"The sanction of the Imperial and Local Parliament shall be sought for the Union of the Provinces, on the principles adopted by the Conference."

I take the position that the Government have not done this. They have not submitted a Scheme, but a bald resolution to appoint delegates with unheard of powers to change the constitution of this Country without its being submitted either to the people or their representatives.

I stated yesterday that I saw yet one chance of escape, and that was that Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island may not be represented, and as this Resolution gives authority to our Delegates to confer with Delegates from all the Colonies, if any are unrepresented, our Delegates will have no power to act. We have been told even by the framers of the Quebec Scheme that the safety of this Province against Canada was in the co-operation with us of these other Provinces whose interests are identical with our own. And now if these Provinces send no delegates, the whole matter must fall to the ground. I do not believe more-over that Nova Scotia will enter into this Union unless her people are appealed to. I have too much faith in the integrity of the House of Commons to believe they will pass an Act in favor of a Union that has never been submitted to the people. The Government of that Province were not appointed to barter away the rights and privileges, the valuable mines and minerals, the success and prosperity of that noble Province, but to preserve them. Nova Scotia will send home a delegation with that great man Joseph Howe at its head, and I believe he will be heard at the bar of the House of Commons pleading in the strongest terms for an appeal to the people on this subject. It has of late become quite common to speak lightly of the abilities and acquisitions of this truly great man, a man who may with justice be called the greatest statesman of at least British America. About a year ago his voice was heard in the Convention at Detroit pleading in the interest of these Colonies, and he was justly styled

the champion of British America. But now on account of the stand he has taken on this subject of the Quebec Scheme he is charged with "imbecility." The Hon. Joseph Howe an imbecile! The people of Nova Scotia have risen in their might, and called for a dissolution of the House and an appeal to the people on this question, and if it is refused to them I tremble for the consequences. But I am confident they will be heard, and that the House of Commons in England will not suffer their Constitution to be taken from them against their will.

We have no guarantee from the Government what course the delegates will pursue. They have not condescended to give any explanations as to what modifications they will insist on. But I do think they should come before this House and assure us that they will not accept the Quebec Scheme unless we can get certain concessions. The Government have refused to this House the right of members expressing their opinions and judgment on this question. I know that my efforts will be unavailing, and I expect we shall get the Quebec Scheme and nothing else, but I hope in God I am mistaken in my opinions.

In reference to the Inter-Colonial Railroad, hon. members seem to be under the impression that no Union will take place unless this is secured. Now I would require that it should be stated in the Scheme that no taxation should take place unless the Inter-Colonial Railway was *bona fide* commenced. This would make them go on with the work, but if it is left as it stands in the Scheme, viz: that "the General Government shall secure without delay the completion of the Inter-Colonial Railway from Rivière du Loup through New Brunswick to Truro in Nova Scotia," and this is to be done only as the finances permit, then there is no difference made between the prosecution of this work and those works in Upper Canada provided for by the next section for the opening up of the Great Western Territory, and the railway will not be built.

There is another provision which, I think, ought to be inserted, and that is, that a member of the Executive Council should be taken from these Provinces, one from each. The Executive Council is to consist of twelve members, and this arrangement would give us one-third. Does any hon. member think it desirable that no Government should be formed unless we are represented? Is there anything improper in this request?

I once more appeal to the manly sentiment and reason of hon. members of this House who have been sent here by the people, because they believed their interests would be carefully guarded in any arrangements which may be entered into. I ask that they shall not delegate their power to two or three persons

point and pay the Judges of the Superior Courts in each Province."

be carried as in the "Inter-Colonial" differences between States and the Gene-

hereinafter mentioned, shall be