[illegible] service, among whom is the name of the [illegible] Colonel Gale to a regiment taken from Colonel [illegible], the grandfather, I believe, of our own hon member [illegible] and who, to his lasting honor be it remembered, [illegible] purchase.

Mr CONROY.—Sir, I have considerable diffidence in addressing the House on this question, in consequence of [illegible] I believe every gentleman in the House [illegible] the matter before us. I do [illegible] that [illegible] Sir, I have [illegible] to do so. We give [illegible] amount. The sum we are to receive is not to increase with our increasing population, while we give in exchange the power to raise our [illegible] amount they choose, we have [illegible] in a few years, if we entered this Confederacy, they would be raised in three times the amount they are at present. As the wants of the Confederacy would [illegible] would be increased. And what control [illegible] Having [illegible] a Parliament composed of one hundred and [illegible] have some [illegible] But it is said that we need not fear that taxation will be uniform, and when they tax, they tax themselves in like manner. But Sir, when I [illegible] how unwilling we have been to increase our tariff in a trifling way, for the purpose of raising an amount which we absolutely required, I cannot see how we can agree to place such a power in the hands of persons who are so reckless in matters of taxation affecting themselves; and as to the glory part of the scheme, as it is called, I have no sympathy with soldiering unless it is required, nor would I agree to have our militia sent to Canada; they had better stay at home and protect their own country; and if, as it is said, the battle must be fought in Canada, all the better for us. With the protection and support of England we need not fear; but if England is to abandon us, as some say she will, and the United States should make war on us, the more quietly we submit the better. That we could, by entering into the proposed Confederation, successfully resist such a power is simply absurd. Sir, I have no fear that the Americans would come here to cut our throats or do us any serious injury. We have never done them wrong, they have no revenge to gratify; and when I say this I must be understood as not expressing disloyal sentiments, for have I not read of English statesmen, even in Parliament, stating that their protecting these Colonies cost more than they were worth, and the sooner we were left to ourselves the better, showing their loyalty to us to be a matter of pounds, shillings and pence? So that if we are to be abandoned by the Mother Country, we should be permitted to look for protection in the place most beneficial to ourselves. And, Sir, I have heard it discussed within the last few days by men of standing in this city, whether it would not be more beneficial to this Island to enter into the great American Union than remain as she now is. And throughout the country—more particularly among the tenantry—the fear of American invasion is not as great as might be fancied. They say that whoever comes they cannot be worse off than they are at present, and, at all events, it will completely settle the Land Question. They say they have nothing to fight for, that they have little interest in the soil, that they have to procure a miserable livelihood by daily toil, that wherever they go they can earn a subsistence as easily as they do on this Island. And this being so, can you expect people so situated to risk their lives in defending the country? I will now quote from a respectable newspaper published in Montreal, wherein, reviewing a speech of the Hon. T. D. McGee, made in defence of the Irish residing in Canada from the charge of Fenianism, the Editor goes on to say that he fully coincides with Mr McGee that Irishmen in Canada have no sympathy with Fenianism, that they, beyond any other people, left their country in consequence of the land question, but in Canada they possessed all the advantages they sighed for in Ireland. The land they tilled was their own in fee-simple, and they would fight for its possession against all comers. This is what I want for our people; give them their land in fee-simple, give them an interest in the country, without which no man can be truly loyal, and you will not want for Volunteers or Militia here to resist invasion. I have read that the Canadian Delegates, in excusing themselves for agreeing to such an outlay, as would be caused by building the Intercolonial Railroad, said that they had to do so, as the Delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would have nothing to do with them before they agreed to build that road. And had our Delegates no public work, the performance of which they might urge, should be agreed on before we entered into any terms? Why did they not press the extinction of the rental system as a work of necessity, and insist on receiving the means necessary for abolishing it? We have heard with what small courtesy the Leader of the Opposition was treated by the Delegates when he proposed a resolution asking for a sum to purchase the claims of the Proprietors. Some of the Canadian Delegates stated, I believe, when in Charlottetown, that the amount asked for by the Leader of the Opposition would be given, but the proposal was afterwards ridiculed. Sir, I want to say that the money could not have been better laid out, it would have relieved this Island from a difficulty, social and political, which has been the great grievance of this country for the last fifty years, and has kept the country periodically in a state bordering on rebellion up to the present time. The amount asked would be scarcely distinguishable in the gross total, for the debt of Canada is counted by millions, and this, if we enter into the proposed Confederation, we must assist in paying. But we will have nothing to do with this Union. We can, by increasing our taxation for a few years, make every man in the Island a freeholder. Nor do I think the country would be displeased at our doing so, as it would be for the general advantage. I have spoken much longer than I intended, and will conclude by stating that I will vote for the amendment.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—Mr Speaker, the hon member from Tignish (Mr Conroy) has stated that unless we continue to enjoy British protection we shall be absorbed into the United States. I would be sorry that we should become a part of a country, the public debt of which, created within about four years, is already no less than three billions, or, in other words, three thousand millions of dollars. I am not apprehensive of such an event, for the British Government, under the pressure of public opinion in Great Britain, has declared we are willing to do our share in assisting your reasonable efforts to defend yourselves. I agree with those hon members who have argued Confederation involves increased taxation. But, Sir, we cannot remain long in our present isolated condition. Confederation or absorption into the States are the two alternatives presented to us. I should prefer to see this Island made, if possible, a free port, and thus become a vast centre of commerce. As to the financial terms offered to us by the delegates at the Quebec Conference, I do not think that justice has been dealt out to us. We should receive half a million of dollars, for it must be borne in mind that for various reasons which have been referred to in this debate we will not receive benefits proportionate to those conferred on the other Colonies. In the present aspect of the matter, I would give a preference to a Federal Union with Great Britain to absorption or confederation. It has been objected by the hon members, Messrs Sinclair and Howlan, that the delegation to Canada was unauthorized by the Legislature. Why, Sir, the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick did not convene their respective legislatures to sanction their delegations. As to the argument that the delegates exceeded their powers when they framed a constitution, they would be laughed at if they had not done so. We are not bound to accept it, and it is unfair to find fault with them on that account.

Mr HOWLAN.—The first delegation was authorized to discuss the subject of a Union of the Maritime Provinces. The Canadian delegation had an entirely different object.

Hon Solicitor GENERAL.—I cannot agree that under the system of Responsible Government the Executive had no power to send a delegation to confer with those sent from the other Provinces. The case would be different if the country were pledged to their proceedings.

Mr SINCLAIR.—I maintain that in adopting a constitution they exceeded their powers. This having been signed by three members of the Government, that body is, to a certain extent, pledged to it.

Mr MONTGOMERY.—Mr Speaker, I have been informed and believe that the Report of the delegates is not approved by the people, and, in my own opinion, it would prove injurious to