

no reference to the hon. gentleman's speech—to the position we occupy as a free people. We all remember the struggle that took place in this country to obtain departmental and responsible government; it was the work of years. The complaint then was, that our affairs were managed in Downing Street—that you could not make a single appointment or control your revenues without reference to that quarter.

SELF GOVERNMENT.

I contend that you are going to establish a second Downing Street at Ottawa under the scheme of Confederation—that you will hand over the control of the most valuable institutions that we now possess. There is your

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

from which you derive the greater portion of the money which you expend for the improvement of your roads, your schools, your breakwaters, and other local services. That great source of power it is proposed to hand over to a body of gentlemen sitting at Ottawa, where you will have 19 out of 194 members. You have at this moment 75 ports of entry and clearance. If I remember aright, they have but 84 in all Canada. It has been the policy of this country, since it has had the control of this department, to afford every possible convenience to the people of the country; so that whenever an application is made for a Custom House, it is granted as almost a matter of course. And so rapid has been the extension of the system, that while 20 years ago there were but 15 ports of entry and clearance in the Province, there are now five times that number. Suppose, now, that you were confederated, and the attention of the Finance Minister at Ottawa was drawn to the fact that this little Province had 75 ports of entry, and some of them collecting no revenue at all; and suppose that an application was made by the people of some one of the counties that another be added to the number, what would be the answer? They would be told, "Your Province has already more than she is entitled to;—although we have eight times your population, yet we hardly have a greater number than you have; and we believe your number ought to be reduced." And how could you help yourselves? Again, suppose a vacancy took place here to-morrow, who would fill it up? Some one at Ottawa who had the ear of the Government—a Nova Scotian, perhaps, if any of them were supporting the Administration, and if not, some Canadian, who knows nothing of your country or its people. And so with dismissals. Now you can arraign the Government here, create a public agitation on the subject, and so affect public opinion as to disturb their tenure of office.

The same state of things would exist in respect to your

POST OFFICE AND LIGHT HOUSES.

There is no country in the world that possesses more postal accommodation than Nova Scotia. We had on the 30th Sept., 1863, 493 Post and Way Offices, 4568 miles of mail route, 971,688 miles of annual travel. Canada at the same period had 1,974 post and way offices, 15,327 miles mail route, and 6,110,000 annual travel. So it will be perceived that while the population of Canada is eight times as great as ours, our post offices have been multiplied

until they are one-fourth as numerous as those of Canada, and the miles of mail route nearly one-sixth. It is clear, then, that the advantage is largely in our favor—so large that if, under Confederation, an attempt was made to increase the number of offices and rides in this Province, the applicants would probably be met with a sharp rebuff—told that they had more than their share already, some of which might very well be dispensed with. I took the liberty of asking the Postmaster General, the other day, how many newspapers passed through the post office prior to the control of that department being transferred to this country; and, largely as I knew the increase in the circulation of letters, under cheap postage, and free newspapers, had grown, I was startled at the figures. In 1849, when the change took place, the number of letters passed through the post office was..... 201,000 and in 1864 the number had grown to..... 1,534,000

Increase.....	1,333,000
The number of newspapers passed through the post office in 1849 was.....	258,000
In 1864 there were.....	3,941,000

Increase.....	3,683,000
---------------	-----------

Pretty satisfactory evidence, I think, of the value of the power to regulate and manage our local affairs.

We have in this country, I may add, the privilege of having our papers pass through the post office free, but in case of Confederation they would be taxed just as they are in Canada now.

And what I have said in respect to the Post Office and Customs departments, applies equally to the Light Houses. Now you have 48 Light Houses—27 west, and 21 east, and you are building three more this year. Suppose you were to be confederated to-morrow, how many would you be allowed to build in addition to that number. They would tell you, you must wait, if you wanted more, until the canals were enlarged, and the north-west territory was opened up.

FINANCIAL POSITION UNDER CONFEDERATION.

I will now call attention to another view of this subject, and not the least important. Let us glance for one moment at what our financial condition would be under Confederation. Under the arrangements made by the Delegates, we are to have 80 cents a head upon the population exhibited by the census of 1861—that subsidy is not to be changed, but continued for all time to come—that we are to have \$264,000 a year. It is assumed, I presume, that the wants of this country are to remain stationary—that our education, roads and bridges, and our public works are all completed—that our country, in fact, is finished—and that in the future all the additional revenues collected in this country will flow into the treasury at Ottawa. Now we get a subsidy of \$264,000 a year. The Provincial Secretary in his estimate for 1865 puts down the

Casual Revenue at.....	\$50,000
Crown Lands.....	35,000
Gold Fields.....	20,000
Hospital for Insane.....	20,000
Board Revenue.....	1,427
Total.....	\$126,427