


[illegible]

So that in almost every way we can view this Report, it presents nothing to us but increased taxation on the industry of this island. And I now come to notice some of the more prominent items of expenditure of which we would have to bear a share under Confederation. The 67th clause says, "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." This question of defence seems to have been the burden of nearly every speech of the delegates. At one of the dinners given to them, the Hon. George Brown said:—

[illegible]

"According to the resolution assented to by the House, distant possessions of the Crown were to be responsible for their own internal defence, and to take their share in the repulse of foreign enemy, the further proposition that distant fortifications should be discontinued was not pressed because accepted. *coorse.*" Mr A. continued "as regards Nova Scotia, being in mind the resolution agreed to the other night, he would to ask what share of the burthen of the defence, the Government expected that Colony to take."

Sir Geo. Lewis replied, "its share would be the maintenance of a Militia."

If that is what Nova Scotia is expected to do, I do think it probable that this Colony will be required undertake more. Then, again, what are we to understand by "the communications with the North Western Territory," as set forth in the 69th clause. That it is not a subject, and an undertaking which will involve great expense, will be seen from an extract from the preface to a work by Professor Hinde, called "A Narrative of Canadian Exploring Expedition." He says,—

"The chief difficulty in the way of rapid transit across the continent lies between Lake Superior and Rainy Lake. The liberality which has already been manifested by the Parliament of Canada, in voting supplies to explore and open this communication, will doubtless be persevered in until the route is

It would appear from these statements that the communication referred to is principally for a military road. However that may be, we enter the Union we must pay for it, whatever its cost, which will probably be as much as that of the Intercolonial Railway. And in the face of all this we are told that taxation will not be increased. I will sum up a few of the items of increased expenditure to show that such an idea must be absurd; and in doing so I will mention those expenses which must be borne immediately should the Confederation scheme be consummated.—

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Intercolonial Railway, as estimated | \$16,000,000 |
| Canal Extension | 30,000,000 |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------|
| | | \$45,000,000 |
| Interest on the above amount for Railway and Canals at 6 per cent | | \$2,700,000 |
| Estimated expense of new Parliament | | 600,000 |
| Militia beyond present expense | | 560,000 |
| Army and Navy, estimated to cost | | 2,500,000 |

[illegible]

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------------|
| the | Imports | £ 293,431 |
| | An increase of | £ 82,191 over |
| the | those of the previous year. | |
| The | Exports | £ 209,472 |
| ent | An increase of | £ 58,923 over |
| om | those of the previous year. | |
| a | Value of Imports over Exports | \$ 80,959 |