

of the north-west, were the conditions in connection with the construction of the intercolonial railway. Mr. Brown in his speech gives the Canadians the strongest possible assurance of this, he says:

"But this question of immigration naturally brings me to the subject of the great North-western territories. [Hear, hear.] The resolutions before us recognize the immediate necessity of those vast territories being brought within the Confederation and opened up for settlement. But I am told that while the Intercolonial Railroad has been made an absolute condition of the compact, the opening up of the Great West and enlargement of our canals have been left in doubt. Now, sir, nothing can be more unjust than this. Let me read the resolutions:—

"The General Government shall secure, without delay, the completion of the Intercolonial Railway from Rivière du Loup, through New Brunswick, to Truro in Nova Scotia.

"The communications with the North-western 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 Federal Provinces, and shall be prosecuted at the earliest possible period that the state of the finances will permit."

The Confederation is, therefore, clearly committed to the carrying out both these enterprises. . . . But honourable gentlemen lay stress upon the point that, while the one enterprise is to be undertaken at once, the other is not to be commenced until the state of the finance will permit. No doubt this is correct, and the reason for it is simply this—the money has already been found for the Intercolonial Railway. They must be well aware that the late Government (the Macdonald-Sicotte Administration) agreed to build the Intercolonial Railway, and obtained from the Imperial Government a guarantee of the debentures for building it—so that money is ready at a very low rate of interest, whenever required. We know where to find money for one enterprise at a rate we are able to bear, and can thus go on with a work which must be gone on with if this union is to be consummated. But we don't know this of the other great work—and we all felt that it would be exceedingly indiscreet—I, myself, as the special advocate of opening up the Great West and of the enlargement of our canals, felt that I could not put my name to a document which declared that all hazards, while our five per cent. debentures were quoted at 75 or 80 per cent. in the money market—we would commence at once, without an hour's delay, any great public work whatever. [Hear, hear.] Honourable gentlemen opposite must not imagine that they have to do with a set of tricksters in the thirty-three gentlemen who composed that Conference. What we have said in our resolutions was deliberately adopted, in the honest sense of the words employed, and not for purposes of deception. Both works are to go on at the earliest possible moment our finances will permit, and honourable gentlemen will find the members of the Cabinet from Lower Canada, as well as from Upper Canada, actuated by the same hearty desire to have this whole scheme carried out in its fair meaning.

Stress may be laid on the term, "as soon as the finances will permit"; but we know the great anxiety on the part of Canada to have this expensive work accomplished, and that as soon as they have the power in their hands to carry out their wishes they will go on with the work.

It has been claimed, also, on behalf of this scheme, that it would add to the defence of these colonies. Perhaps there is no one assertion which the advocates of confederation have made that has gained them more supporters than this. There is something in it that captivates every man's mind and carries him almost away despite himself. It finds a response in every heart that feels the attachments of home. And it was wrong; it was cruel, on the part of the advocates to thus make an appeal to one of the noblest sentiments that find

a home in the breast of man—that sentiment which bids us rise to defend the country in which God has placed us—to protect the homes we have secured by His blessing, and guard the altars we have erected to His worship,—without having such facts as would sustain the hopes excited by the assertions.

What is the Provincial Secretary's argument? That Confederation will give us more men and money to affect this great object. That we shall have 4000,000, instead of 350,000 people to defend us. He does not, however, say that with an increase of men comes an increase of duty that they would have to perform. If it gave us the four millions entirely for the defence of this province then his assertion would be sustained, but when every man that goes into Confederation brings with him the particular spot which he feels most anxious to defend, in case of invasion, then Confederation does not give us more men or money. Besides it places the control of our defences under a power that is situated 800 miles away from us. We are told by the hon. member from South Colchester that the temptation to invade this Province is greater than to invade any other—its value in consequence of its position and resources being greater. Admitting this to be the case, is it not unwise to give the control of the natural defences of this country—the men who are to defend their homes—to a power situated 800 miles away, and who will feel it more to their individual interest to call them away to protect Canada. It has been said that the fate of Canada is our own. That may be, but I regard the safety of Nova Scotia as more essential to the maintenance of our connection with the British Empire than is that of any other of the British Colonies. I answer, Nova Scotia is the keystone to the whole—when she falls, the whole follow.—Great changes have taken place of late years in the character of the navies of the world. Steam has taken the place of wind as the motive power rendering the ships more effective but more dependent upon their base of supply. We have here the power—the coal—which must be regularly supplied to the British fleet from our mines, in case of hostilities on this side the Atlantic. And if this base of supply should fall into the hands of an enemy, then the whole navy of England would be powerless for the protection of these Colonies, and must leave them to their fate. How essential, then, is it that local influences in Canada shall not have the power to call away our natural protectors to defend less important territory.

The Prov. Sec. says we are as unprotected and as helpless as the crawling worm.

I was amazed beyond measure, to hear such an expression fall from an hon. gentleman occupying a position which gives to his declarations an official character. Had I occupied his position, rather than have stood at the table of this House, declaring that *a portion of the British Empire* "are as unprotected as the crawling worm" I'd have crawled down under the table.

A crawling worm are we? Well, what does he make of us under Confederation? I waited in anxiety expecting to see the "worm" swell and