

wishes of the people chiefly interested? Honorable gentlemen who betray such anxiety to press this scheme at once should remember that we are not voting away our own but the people's money, and that this should not be done to the extent that is now proposed, without consulting their wishes in the matter. This the law requires before a municipal council can make any special grant of money. In such cases a vote of the people has to be taken, which is conclusive as to whether the proposed expenditure shall be incurred or not; and yet we are here passing a measure of vastly greater importance to them, a measure involving a revolution in our political affairs—a measure involving an immense outlay of money without asking whether the people are favorable to it or not. (Hear, hear.) I maintain, honorable gentlemen, that before it is finally passed upon, the whole question should be submitted to the people, and that the law which requires a reference to them in minor matters, should be extended in a matter which so nearly concerns their future condition and prosperity. The people of the eastern provinces have very little to complain of in the plan of Confederation proposed. The fact is, they will be largely the gainers by it, if it is carried out. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the members of the governments of those provinces, and other public men, see the great advantage they have gained over Canada, and are not slow to set them before the people. They are naturally anxious that the scheme shall be carried as speedily as possible, and are making every effort in this direction, for under it unprofitable local works in those provinces are assumed and paid for by the General Government; such, for instance, as the railways of New Brunswick, which, before five years go round, will, I have no doubt, be run at very considerable cost beyond the returns they will yield to the General Government. The Hon. Mr. TILLEY, in a speech to the electors of St. John, sets forth the advantages to be gained by New Brunswick by the union, as follows:—

New Brunswick is allowed to enter the Confederation with a debt of seven millions, and Nova Scotia with a debt of eight millions. Now, what was the nature of the arrangement by which we came in? It was found that the debt of Canada was not much larger per head than that of New Brunswick. We came in on better terms than that province.

Mr. TILLEY then proceeds to show how New Brunswick gained a clear advantage of \$610,000 a year for all time to come on the Interco-

lonial Railway alone. So much better are the terms to that province under the Intercolonial scheme than those upon which they offered themselves to join us in building that road, two years ago, Hon. Mr. TILLEY says:—

Of the cost of that road (the Intercolonial Railway) New Brunswick and Nova Scotia had guaranteed the provincial credit for seven-twelfths, and Canada for five-twelfths. Now, if the Confederation would build the road, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia would be relieved of the interest on the seven millions, amounting to \$420,000, as well as upon the interest of the three and a half-twelfths of the three millions sterling, amounting to \$190,000, making in all \$610,000 provided for by the General Government.

This liberal bribe to bring New Brunswick into the union, one would think, was quite enough to satisfy the little province; but Hon. Mr. TILLEY adds:—

Over and above all these advantages, we get for ten years a subsidy of \$63,000 per annum. Our local expenditures summed up amount to \$320,630, and we get from the General Government, without increased taxation, \$90,000, in lieu of our import duty and casual territorial revenue, 80 cents per head on the population, making \$201,637, and a special subsidy of \$63,000 a year for ten years, making in all \$354,637, being \$34,000 over and above our present necessities.

These (says Hon. Mr. TILLEY) are the principal points looked to. Hon. Mr. TILLEY is very candid, and acknowledges these advantages in the name of "subsidies." He further assures his audience in the following words:—

But we are asked, what guarantee have you that you will continue to receive these subsidies promised by the General Government? Most unquestionable security—we are not at the mercy of the Canadians. * * * So close is the contest between parties in the Canadian Legislature, that even the five Prince Edward Island members by their votes, could turn victory on whatever side they choose, and have the game entirely in their own hands.

This is the success with which Hon. Mr. TILLEY has acted on behalf of the people of New Brunswick, and I think the Commissioner of Crown Lands, when he reflects upon the advantages that the eastern provinces have received over those obtained by Canada, will admit that I was not far astray the other day when I said that our public men had acted with a great deal of recklessness. It appears to me that they went to work with the determination to get Confederation—to get it on fair terms if they could, but to get it on any terms that might be found necessary to con-