

Maintain for an Imperial Act to carry out the Report of the Quebec Conference, after stating the origin and history of the Union question in Canada up to the time when the Quebec Conference was held.

"How many of all parties and all shades of politics became alarmed at the aspect of affairs. They found that such was the opposition between the two sections of the Province, that there was the danger of impending anarchy in consequence of the irreconcilable differences of opinion with respect to representation by population between Upper and Lower Canada, that unless some solution of the difficulty was arrived at we would enter under a succession of weak governments, weak in numerical support, weak in force, and weak in power of doing good. All were alarmed at this state of affairs. We had election after election; we had Ministry after Ministry, with the same result. Parties were so equally balanced that the vote of one member might decide the fate of the administration and the course of legislation for a year, or a series of years. This condition of things was well calculated to arouse the earnest consideration of every lover of his country, and I am happy to say it had that effect. Leading statesmen on both sides came to the conclusion that some steps must be taken to relieve the country from the dead lock and impending anarchy that hung over it."

Such are the words of one of the Joint Premiers of Canada. Mr. McDougall then goes on to state that to remedy this state of affairs—

"The Hon. Geo. Brown's Committee was appointed, whose Report resulted in the formation of the present Canadian Government, composed as it is of men of all shades of politics, brought together for the purpose of bringing about a Union of the Provinces."

In the face of such statements, coming from such high authority, it is in vain for the advocates of Union to tell us that it is either pressure from the Home Government, or the threatening aspect of affairs in the neighboring Republic, that has given rise to the Confederation question at this particular time. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if the Statesmen of Canada could have found within their country a solution of their political difficulties, we would not have heard much about Confederation. After the decision pronounced by New Brunswick at their late General Election to reject the scheme, I do not think there is any necessity for our spending much time in debating the subject, as it is quite clear that we shall not be called upon to enter Confederation until Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are ready to go into it. I shall not, therefore, at any length, go into the objectionable parts of the Report as they affect us; they have been over and over again brought to the notice of the public. While I admit that we could hardly expect that the delegates assembled at Quebec to frame a constitution for all British America, would so frame their work as to make it suit the peculiar circumstances and wants of the smallest and most insignificant of the Provinces, they, at the same time, appear to have entirely overlooked our claims. From our insular position, and the nature and character of our limited resources, the offer, as contained in the Report, presents fewer inducements to us than to any of the other Provinces; but it is our duty to see that the interests of those we represent are not sacrificed. With regard to the financial arrangement justice has not been done to us. We are asked to give up nearly the whole of our revenue, now (about £90,000,) and which will no doubt go on increasing, to the General Government, and in lieu thereof receiving a capitation allowance of 80 cents per head on our present population amounting to about £20,250, and interest on the difference between our debt and the debt of the Confederate Government, amounting to £31,600. The latter amount cannot be looked upon as a gift, as we are called upon to shoulder the capital it represents as our portion of a debt which we had no hand in contracting, and from the results of which we have derived no benefit. These two amounts will be insufficient to defray our ordinary local expenditures, and if any large public work is required we will, in all probability, have to pay for it ourselves,

unless its advantages extend for the general benefit of the Province, which, from our situation, is not likely to be the case. But who is to tell what increase of taxation the General Government will not be obliged to impose? Mr. Galt, Finance Minister of Canada, says—

"A revenue of \$12,000,000 would, at the outset, be required for the General Government. This estimate allows, but \$1,000,000 for fortifications, military and naval purposes, and, as we are told by our Union friends, that there is to be a Confederate army and navy to protect us against Brother Jonathan, this estimate will no doubt have to be increased. Not to say anything about deepening and widening the gulf between Upper Canada, and the construction of other great public works, which must go on as the country becomes more developed, and we, Sir, will be powerless to check any extravagance on the part of the General Government. But we are told that the commercial advantages which will flow to us from the Union will so increase our prosperity that we will be able to bear extra taxation. International free trade is to be established, and we will be able to import our manufactures from Canada and the other Provinces duty free."

This is, in other words, telling us that our trade in manufactures will be confined to the Provinces, which I believe would be the case, as high and prohibitory duties would have to be imposed on imports from Britain and other countries, in order to provide a revenue for the General Government, as we can hardly expect that any Finance Minister would have the courage to attempt to raise such a revenue by direct taxation, a line of policy that even a Gladstone shrinks from. To have our trade confined to these Colonies would be great disadvantage to us, as I do not believe that a new country like Canada could furnish us with manufactures on as favorable terms as the Mother Country. Among the many requirements necessary to make a country a manufacturing one, a surplus population is one of them. Now, all other things being equal, can it be reasonably expected that a large country like Canada, with a sparse population, the same to the square mile as that of England to every two or three acres, not to say anything of the inducements which the fertile and cheap lands of Canada hold out to men to become farmers, can supply us with manufactures of the same quality and at as cheap a rate as England? How would such a policy affect our relations with the Mother Country? Certainly not improve them. As it is, the Manchester School of Politicians are for casting us adrift as useless and expensive appendages. They say we are always lightening John Bull's pocket, on some pretence or other, and bawling up our own against them; by placing high duties on their exports. They say, and with much truth, that we, their children, ought to buy from them more largely than we do. Intercolonial free trade would, no doubt, increase this cause of complaint, and strengthen the ranks of men holding the views of Bright and Goldwin Smith. Then, again, Mr. Speaker, why was not the principle of compensation extended to us as well as to Newfoundland and New Brunswick? It is true we have no mines or minerals to surrender; but we are, for five months in the year, shut out from the use and advantage of the great public works of the other Provinces, for the past and future cost of which we are to contribute, while these works, during the winter, are as useless to us as the Car of Juggernaut. If Newfoundland, by giving up her mines and minerals, will have them opened and worked, which I presume will be the case, otherwise \$150,000 a year in perpetuity would not have been offered for them. That, alone, in the increase of trade which would follow would be a sufficient compensation; but I presume the grant was made with another object. I am afraid we were considered too insignificant to be worth bargaining for. It was easily seen that if the other Provinces went into the Union we would have to follow. And why pay for anything when you can get it for nothing? Then, again, New Brunswick was granted £50,000 for 10 years for a local work.