

to go on and erect fortifications in this Province. The Government of Canada have, I think, acted wisely; they have sent home delegates to see Her Majesty's advisers face to face, and there tell them what they are prepared to do if England will aid them. The people of Canada have granted a million of dollars to military purposes, to be used in case an arrangement can be made with the British Government on fair and equal principles. What is our Government doing? They propose a grant of \$30,000 to show their loyalty. I believe if the British Government saw it was for the interests of the people of this Province, they would guarantee the loan to carry on the fortifications and other necessary works. They know there is no danger of our coming in to contact with the United States by our own actions. What was the case in the Trent affair? Who were looked upon as responsible for the depredations of the *Alabama*? What were the feelings of the North towards England on account of her early recognition of the South as belligerents? These were all Imperial interests, and out of difficulties like these war often comes. If, then, to defend these interests, it is found necessary to have fortifications erected in our Province, is it not reasonable that they should guarantee the funds for carrying on the work? I am not at issue with this Government on the appropriation of \$30,000 for Militia purposes; but I do believe that sum could be best employed in bringing the Staff, the Militia officers, into an efficient state, rather than by bringing the men together all over the Province for a day or three days in a year, with no beneficial result. Look at the case in the States. When the war broke out had they any effective organization out of which to make their armies? They had not at least in Maine, and where were men ever found who more nobly distinguished themselves? If this amount is to be spent under the system heretofore pursued, I think we might as well throw the money into the river. When we look back on the war in the United States, which is just now subsiding, when we remember that one month before the firing of the first gun at Fort Sumpter, all was peace and quiet; who did, who could have imagined, what scenes of devastation and woe, what rivers of blood, what widows and orphans would so soon be developed and brought about, as have been since then. And what might be the case here? In arriving at an opinion it may be well to consider the position of affairs on this continent and by the ideas of others arrive at conclusions with respect to ourselves. The *London Morning Advertiser* of April 21st, contains the following:—"On receipt of the news of the fall of Richmond, Louis Napoleon proposed to Lord Cowley that England and France should, by a treaty offensive and defensive, make common cause against the United States of America; that in the event of Canada being attacked by them, France should assist England with all her land and sea forces; and that in the event of the United States openly or covertly attacking the Emperor Maximilian, or in anywise endangering his throne, England should, in conjunction with France, defend Maximilian." There are rumours too of expeditions to Mexico, and that the Mexican President Juarez is acting offensive against France. We are told that "President Juarez, of the Mexican Republic, has issued letters of marque for reprisals against French commerce." Now what will be the natural result of this?

Is it not collision with France? And then from Boston we learn that, "The Mexican emigration excitement increases; the officers for the enrollment are unable to accommodate applicants; two more offices are to be opened. It is said that the West has subscribed large sums of money for the enterprise; 26,000 men are to be raised there." And again, the next day we are told that in New York, "A recruiting office was opened for Mexican soldiers; there was quite a rush to the office all day, and the large number of 455 men were recruited." The excitement on this subject has even shown itself in the Capital, for we hear that, "A Mexican emigration expedition has just been organized in Washington. A general eagerness to join it is manifested. A liberal bounty in gold is offered to able bodied emigrants." Now, when we hear of these kind of things going on, we may very naturally look for results that will affect us sooner or later.

Hon. MR. SMITH.—Is it not desirable then that we should be in a state of defence?

MR. CONNELL.—Exactly so, and if the Government had brought down a resolution that would have proved for the good of the country, I should have given them my support, and will now, if they do as they have done in Canada. This is not a matter of pounds, shillings and pence, but one of the greatest importance that comes before this House. I think if the Government were to enter into communication with the British Government, and shew them our willingness to do all we can for ourselves, and that in the matter of defence we desired to meet their just wishes it would result in good. This is what I desire, and if followed out would shew that we have some gratitude for the blessings conferred on us in the past, not by words only, or bare expressions of loyalty, but by such action as coming from the highest authority of the Province, will carry weight with it. But instead of this, what is proposed to be done? I see by a report in the *Journals* of information forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, respecting our future action, it is proposed to establish a camp of instruction, where men who have been drafted from the different parts of the Province, are to be drilled for twenty-eight days in each year; and that a resolution has been agreed to by the Military commission to call out the balance of the Militia force of the Province for three days' drill, and one day inspection in each year, and to embrace all the male inhabitants between the ages of 16 and 60. Of course, in view of the present emigration to Mexico, this plan will be very acceptable. Our young men who volunteer to come forward and get this instruction, will be the ones most likely to go off and be accepted to join the Mexican expedition. But I should like to see where the people have made a move in this matter. The only ones I see, who shew any activity, are the officers who are to get pay for these twenty-eight days drill. I am not a military man, I never have been, but if anything is to be done in this matter I am willing to contribute my quota towards furthering its interests; but this mode of spending money to fit men to join the Mexican expedition is what I don't agree with. In Canada, where they have a Military School, a great complaint has been that some of the officers when drilled went off to the American war, and what reason have we to suppose that the same will not be the case here. Yet, notwithstanding all the rumours that are afloat, I have not much

alarm that we shall be invaded. I am willing to go with the Government if they will promise to give a reasonable sum to the training of officers, while they are carrying on negotiations with the British Government.

Hon. MR. ANGLIN.—Does the hon. member mean to say that the complaint in Canada has been that the trained officers have gone to the American war, and now wants this amount spent in the same way to qualify men for the Mexican expedition?

MR. CONNELL.—I said they made complaint of this, but I have no fear for it here. I think that those who qualify themselves would have too much patriotism to allow anything of the kind to occur. I speak with regard to the resolution adopted by the Military commission. The people of England are interested in this matter; the strong feeling there is that these Colonies should bear the expense of erecting the fortifications for defence. There are some of all shades of politics who think we are a burden to them. When we read of a member of the House of Commons rising in his place and saying that no ministry could stand who would make a grant for Military purposes in these Colonies; and that the Colonial Secretary stands up and affirms it; I say when we see this, we must be convinced that the feeling of dissatisfaction in England is gaining ground with regard to these Provinces. I said we are often enabled to arrive at results by hearing the opinions of others, and I will now read an extract from the *London Times*, a very high authority, on the defences of Canada:—

"The grant of £50,000 for the defence of Quebec is the opening of a question as various in its incidents and doubtful in its issues as if the armies had already appeared before that fortress, shots had been exchanged, and new positions taken. It already transpires that we are expected to do a great deal more, and that what the Canadians do themselves, as their side of the bargain, if a bargain there be, is to be done with money borrowed on the credit of the Empire—that is, of the British Treasury—as being for Imperial purposes. As even the interest of this loan would have to be paid by fresh duties upon imports, chiefly from this country, it would amount to our paying, in one shape or another, every shilling of the cost. From speeches in the Canadian Legislature it appears to be thought entirely our affair, inasmuch that it is England, her extravagant pretensions, her insatiable pride, and her quarrelsome temper, that have produced the apprehension of an American invasion. The Canadians meanwhile are most creditably beforehand with us in a just anxiety to know how we are to stand, who is to do it all, who is to pay, and how the defences are to be conducted. A deputation of the most distinguished men in the Province is on its way to this country, and we can only regret the deputation does not represent all our Provinces, or even one of those accessible at all seasons to our fleets and armies. The Maritime Provinces we can reach at all times, and one of them contains the only possible basis of operations we possess in that part of the world, indifferently provided as it appears to be for that purpose. But these Maritime Provinces are just those that wish to have nothing to say to Canada or to the Empire at this particular crisis, unless, indeed, we would be so obliging as to finish for them their Intercolonial Railway