

"I cannot conclude without referring to some other things which have received the grave attention of the Conference. And the first point to which I desire to call attention is, that the delegates have unanimously resolved that the United Provinces shall be placed at the earliest moment in a thorough state of defence. The attacks which have been made upon us have created the impression that these are a weak and feeble state; if, then, we would do away with such an impression, and place ourselves on a firm and secure footing in the eyes of the world, our course must be to put our country in such a position of defence that we may fearlessly look our enemies in the face. It is a pleasure to me to state, and I am sure it must be a pleasure to all present, to be informed, that the Conference at Quebec did not separate before entering into a pledge to put the MILITARY AND NAVAL DEFENCES OF THE UNITED PROVINCES IN A MOST COMPLETE AND SATISFACTORY POSITION."

Not being a military man, I approach this question of defence with considerable diffidence. I believe, however, it is all a matter of moonshine. I have the fullest confidence in Great Britain's ability to defend her Colonies, and very little faith in their being able to protect themselves. For stating that the latter is a ridiculous idea, I have the authority of a military man—no less than Lieut. Colonel Haviland—who, in addressing this House on this subject last Session, said:—

"As to the idea attributed to the Imperial Government that these Colonies are able to bear the burden of defending themselves against the invasion of a foreign foe, the sooner Great Britain awakes from that delusion the better. Our small annual appropriation of £400 for the volunteer organization is not sufficient without strong expressions of disapprobation, while Nova Scotia grants \$29,000 for that service."

I think since last year, another change has come over the spirit of his dream. (Laughter.) But at the utmost what does Great Britain expect us to do for our defence? I will read the resolution of the House of Commons on the subject, together with the War Minister's explanation thereof:—

"That this House (while fully recognizing the claims of all portions of the British empire to imperial aid in their protection against perils arising from the consequences of imperial policy), is of opinion, that colonies exercising the rights of self-government, ought to undertake the main responsibility of providing for their own internal order and security, and ought to assist in their own external defence."

A few days after the passage of this resolution, the debate occurred in the Commons relative to an appropriation for military purposes in the Mauritius and Nova Scotia, when Mr. Adderley spoke as follows:—

"According to the resolution assented to by the House, the distant possessions of the Crown were to be responsible for their own internal defence, and to take their share in the repulse of a foreign enemy, the further proposition that distant fortifications should be discontinued was not pressed because accepted of course." Mr. A. continued "as regards Nova Scotia, bearing in mind the resolution agreed to the other night, he would like to ask what share of the burden 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 not think it probable that this Colony will be required to 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 no new subject, and an undertaking which will involve great expense, will be seen from an extract from the preface of a work by Professor Hinds, called "A Narrative of the 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

well established." In 1857 an expedition was sent out by the Canadian Government with the following instructions:—"The primary object is to make a thorough examination of the tract of country between Lake Superior and Red River, to determine the best route for a communication through British Territory from that Lake to the Red River Settlement, and ultimately to the great triangle of cultivable land beyond them." In vol. II, page 212, it is stated:—"That the shortest line of road from the limits of the settlement on Western Canada, via the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, to the North Corner of the Lake of the Woods exceeds 1000 miles. When the mineral wealth of Lakes Huron and Superior form the basis of speculative enterprise on an enlarged scale, a winter communication with these regions will become a necessity, and may ultimately extend Westward to Red River. It is not improbable that circumstances now dimly foreseen may expedite the opening of this communication, and make it a matter not only of Colonial but Imperial interest."

It would appear from these statements that the communication referred to is principally for a military road. However that may be, if we enter the Union we must pay for it, whatever its cost, which will probably be nearly 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 only 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
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	\$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	500,000
Army and Navy, estimated to cost	2,500,000
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	\$5,800,000

Of this sum not a farthing is paid at present. How, then, I ask could the Government under Confederation be carried on without increased taxation? Again, we are told, that Union would tend to develop our fisheries. But I would ask is there anything now to prevent people from Canada or any other place coming here and engaging in the fisheries? I heard a gentleman who was extensively engaged in fisheries at Gaspe state that though he received a bounty of 25 per cent he would not come to prosecute them in this Colony. We are further told that if we do not enter the proposed Union we will be like dormice. But, Sir, would we then have any greater scope for our youth more than now? Have not Davios, Hyndman, and others of our young men, as great a field open for them in the British service as they would have in a Confederation with a paltry population of 4 millions of people? Have we not, Sir, the bon and gallant Colonel, who achieved laurels in Her Majesty's military service; and had we not a little who gained civil honors in Newfoundland? But, why, I would ask, all this agitation about Union? Have the people of this Colony petitioned to do away with its constitution? Do they wish to enter Confederation? I believe they complain of their land tenures; but have they set forth any other grievances? And further, is there anything in the financial condition of the Colony to warrant us in going into Confederation? Take our Blue Book for 1863-4 and see what unexceptionable state of our Revenue it presents. It shows:—

Imports	£293,431
An increase of	£ 82,191 over
these of the previous year.	
Exports	£269,472
An increase of	£ 58,923 over
those of the previous year.	
Value of Imports over Exports	\$ 43,959