

They had ignored the fact that Canadian manufacturers of woolens, leather, hardware, &c., would be imported here duty free, and that in proportion as we consumed these goods must the revenue from the same class of goods from England decrease. He thought we should be gainers by our free importation from Canada, not only in a fiscal point of view, but as affording employment to our women of the labouring classes in spinning, weaving and making up materials for clothing; and any arrangement which would provide suitable occupation for the female population ought to be welcomed by every one interested in our common prosperity. It was impossible to believe how men abler and serious in their apprehension on the score of taxation in view of the necessary change of condition under Confederation, and bearing in mind the interest of the General Government in making as light as possible those burdens which it would have to share. The assurance given by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this head, and the security we should have in the watchfulness of members representing the other maritime colonies, as well as of those who should be sent from Newfoundland, ought to satisfy hon. members that there need be no anxiety as to excessive taxation. It was very remarkable how nervous hon. members became in mere anticipation of most improbable burdens, while they were willing to bear actual and heavy burdens of present taxation, in the shape of protectionism, depreciation of property, and other evils that prostrate the energies of the country. And they further seem to forget that, even if we take their advice and stay as we are, we must submit to further taxation, though only for the purpose of paying off our existing debt. It had been pretended that Canada was eagerly bent upon securing us to help to pay her debt. The idea seemed to him (Mr. Shea) to convey a bitter mockery of our financial position. It should be first known that we could pay our own debts, before being at all likely that we could excite the cupidity of other countries. And even if our condition in this respect were improved, why, to talk of Canada having designs upon us to help her out of any difficulties, was as reasonable as to suppose that our own Government should make a raid upon Quidi Vidi or Goat's Cove, to compel the inhabitants of those classical localities to discharge our present liabilities. Great alarm seemed to exist that we should part with the management of our fisheries; but a moment's reflection would show that our fisheries were more likely to be better managed and protected by a powerful government interested as we are ourselves in their conservation, than by any small efforts of our own. We should then have a chance of having our salmon and herring fisheries turned to good account; and this surely would be a vast improvement on the present plan of consigning these valuable resources to neglect. But the hollowness of some of those outside doors, who now make stock of this cry about the fisheries, was manifest when we remember that if these very people had their way, our fisheries would long since have been wrested from us by the French convention; for they had done their worst to oppose that self-government which alone gave us the power to resist the spoliation. The Solicitor General waxed patriotic over what he called the loss of our local Legislature, and told us the people had much more regard than formerly for our local institutions. The hon. gentleman had related an instance of very hard things said years ago by some one he had met in the street at a very late hour of the night. It must have been on some very rare occasion indeed, to account for the Solicitor General having been at large at an unseasonable time. But he (Mr. Shea) much feared that if the people judged of the Legislature by the amount of good of a practical kind that we had since done for them, their opinion of us would not be found much more flattering than that which had greeted the ears of the Solicitor General on his nocturnal rambles. The same hon. gentleman had also ridiculed the idea of our eight members being effective in the Confederate Legislature. Well, if they only exercised there anything like the influence brought to bear on our own Government by one member from Harbor Grace, we never need fear for the sustenance of our interests in the Confederate Parliament. Reference had been made to those political distractions in Canada which had caused such frequent changes of government; but the hon. member who made this allusion should have seen that it only told against his own view, because these differences there would render the combined efforts of our eight members all the more powerful and available to the interests of the colony. We were threatened with losing the protection of England; but we had only to read the views of British statesmen and the British press to see that the union would cement and consolidate our connection with the parent state; and that it would be in rejecting it that we should run the risk of forfeiting our right to imperial consideration. It was plain beyond any possible doubt that Great Britain earnestly desired this measure; and it was absurd to suppose that we were likely to conciliate her favour by flying in the face of her advice and admonitions. The union with Ireland had been held up to scare us away from this proposition. But had the Irish union with England been a real and honest one, had Ireland only been governed as was Yorkshire, Lancashire, or any other county of England, the agitation for repeal would never have been raised. That agitation was the result of despair of a true union; and it was monstrous to pretend any parallel in the present case, where there were no causes existing, as in the instance of unhappy Ireland, to prevent fulfilment of the union which we were invited to enter. The horrors of the draft were also pictured to our imaginations by hon. members; but they must be well aware that, in this respect, our position would not be in any degree changed by Confederation. The draft was never resorted to but in those extreme national emergencies which suspend even law itself. Any such crisis as regarded us was highly improbable. But if ever arose, even in our present relations with the mother country, Great Britain herself would have that power which we are now asked to believe could only be exercised by the Confederate Government. This was but another of the scarecrows set up to alarm the people with imaginary dangers, and turn their minds from the real evils of their present condition. Hon. members had argued that even though advantageous to the sister colonies, union could not benefit Newfoundland, so different were our circumstances from theirs. He (Mr. Shea) regretted to be obliged to agree with them, that our circumstances are indeed very different from those of New Brunswick or Nova Scotia; but this very difference, so far from being a reason against Confederation, was a strong one in its favour. These colonies were prosperous and progressing. Pauperism, as it is with us, was wholly unknown to them; and they could afford, if they thought fit, to go on, as they have shown themselves able to do, on their own account. Ours was a condition opposite to this—the Colony had been for years going down the hill; and the best of the labouring classes were fleeing its shores to seek bread. Our resources, though countless, were good, required an aid that we could not give them; and a reliable prospect of this was afforded by our junction with older and wealthier communities. If the measure suited the other Colonies, it appeared to him that it was the more desirable for us, in proportion to our greater need of a helping hand. We are old, our isolation is a raze against us. It is, if we desire to perpetuate this isolation, which we all agree to consider so injurious to our interests. A poor man offered a meaus

effect, is now said to the North American Colonies. From the fact of the Canadians countenancing, to all appearance, the late raid across the United States' border by Southern sympathizers, robbing the Banks and firing upon and mortally wounding citizens of St. Albans, Canada has now to turn out a portion of her militia and volunteers for the protection of her frontier. The British Government very properly said, if you conduct yourselves towards your neighbours in such a manner as to excite their hostility, you must take the consequences. And there could be no doubt that, for the future, these large Provinces must make provision for their own defence, by making their militia efficient, and that they will also be called upon to contribute towards the maintenance of a regular army, and will have to provide themselves with a navy. He (Mr. Moore) did say that in the face of circumstances involving such an enormous expenditure as will inevitably be entailed upon Canada, it would be unwise to pledge this colony to join such an alliance on the basis proposed in the report of the Quebec Conference. Neither did he believe that Newfoundland was originally included in the proposed scheme, or expected to join therein. Nor did he see that we would be benefited commercially by entering into Confederation on such terms. The geographical position of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, contiguous to Canada, placed them in a very different and more favourable position in regard to Confederation than this Island; and still it was seen that these provinces hesitated about entering the union and taking upon themselves their share of the immense responsibility. And was not that enough to warrant us to keep back? It had been said that we are not so far advanced in population, wealth, or material improvement as the other colonies, and that the union would confer great benefit on Newfoundland, that we would derive great advantages from the railroads, canals, and other improvements of Canada. He admitted that we would, and will benefit, whether we enter Confederation or not; in the same ratio as we have benefited, and will benefit by every improvement in other countries wherever our commercial extends. For instance, by the extension of railroads in Spain, which has tended to facilitate the transport of goods and merchandise required for the interior of that country, the article of codfish being largely consumed by the inhabitants. Hence the facilities afforded by these railroads have greatly tended to increase the demand, and enhance the price of that staple product. Canada had constructed her railroads and canals for her own advantage—for the conveyance of her produce to the seaports, and of the produce of other countries into the interior; also to induce customers from other countries to resort to her markets to purchase of the abundance of our products, in preference to that of the United States. In this way Newfoundland will derive great benefit by these improvements, without being compelled to pay for them. We might, in the course of years, find it to our advantage to go into the Confederation; but we would not, now, under the constitution laid before us, unless some far more favourable terms are offered than the present. A great deal had been said about steam communication. It had been a great boon to every country; and he granted it would be good for us if established. One of the arguments put forward of the advantages of steam communication between this Island and Canada was that it would afford facilities for our operative population to proceed to Canada where there was a field for their labour. But he did not see how the prosperity of this country was to be promoted by the more energetic of our working classes leaving us, some of whom would no doubt prosper in Canada. But it was not a portion of the most energetic of our population going elsewhere and prospering that would restore the prosperity of this country. For the master of any of our people proceeding to Canada, what is there to prevent them going now? The general colonial policy is to induce people to settle in the respective colonies; but it would seem, by what some hon. gentlemen have stated, that the policy of this unfortunate country should be to banish and send our people out of it as fast as they can go; and by their exertions in Canada we are to raise them from our present depressed state. If we require steam communication, it will be better for us to pay for it directly, and then we shall have it; but there is no guarantee in the Quebec resolutions that we would have it under Confederation. The tariff of Canada, on which the calculations for the proposed union were based, is protective. It was denied by the hon. member for P. S. Ansonia, Mr. Shee, that the Canadian tariff is protective, or that it should now be a matter of consideration, as a different tariff would be adopted by the Confederate Legislature. But he (Mr. Moore) could not look upon the matter in that light. That tariff is protective; and he (Mr. Moore) considered it a matter of vital importance to this Colony, that we should well consider and understand, before entering Confederation, the position we would be placed in with regard to it, and the effect it would have on the country. A protective tariff would not be beneficial to Newfoundland at present. For example, our duty upon manufactured leatherware, at present, is 11 per cent; but under the Canadian tariff it is 25 per cent. Would not this difference of 14 per cent be a bounty to the Canadian manufacturers? It was idle to say that they would not take advantage of it. Another consideration—supposing the question of union had not been thought of, and that our government proposed a tariff similar to that of Canada, would it receive any support in the House? He believed no government in this colony would dare to introduce such a tariff; and, if not, why should we put it in the power of another government to do so? That tariff would produce at least £50,000 over the amount guaranteed to us by the Quebec resolutions. Why should we send £30,000 a year to Canada, and more than probable have to submit to a direct taxation of £20,000 a year besides to support our poor and for other purposes? If Confederation would remove the barrier of ice that sometimes blocks our coast, regulate the winds, and give us more prosperous fisheries, then that would be an advantage. Newfoundland requires free trade; and can we have it to a greater extent by confederation than we have at present? The Canadian markets are as free to us now as we can desire. Some few articles of Canadian manufacture might suit us; but we cannot afford to shut ourselves out from the British or any other market for the purpose of fostering Canadian manufactures at our expense. It would be more for our advantage to continue our present relation with Great Britain, even if we should have to pay, according to our population, a small amount towards the maintenance of a military force for our defence. And when the British government saw the desire of the people of this Colony to establish Volunteer Companies, as they are doing with such spirit and ardour, to be ready to aid and assist in their own defence, they would not compel us to join the Confederate contrary to our expressed wishes and interests. What the trade of Newfoundland requires is that we should be as free to go to the markets of the world as possible, and with as little taxation laid on our imports as practicable, and try to keep foreign markets open to our exports—to endeavour to encourage the people to devote more of their attention to agriculture, which must prove more profitable to the country than Confederation. The prosperity of the country must depend upon the energies of the people, and the resources within themselves, and not on the prosperity or resources of another country. It is patent that the fisherman generally have a reluctance to take up agriculture, from the very nature of its pursuits being so vastly different from the pursuit of the fisheries. But necessity would show and teach them that it is their best alternative; and from that and other resources he anticipated more effective and permanent relief for the present destitution of a portion of our operative population, than from a union with the other British North American Colonies.

On motion of the hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL, the Committee then rose, and the Chairman reported progress. To sit again to-morrow.

The hon. RECEIVER GENERAL, by command of his Excellency the Governor, presented to the House the following documents:—

Shipping returns for 1861.
Return of Imports and exports for 1861.
Ordered that these documents lie on the table.
The house then adjourned until Thursday at three o'clock.

THURSDAY, March 2.
The house met at 3 o'clock.
Mr. KENT presented a petition from Michael Barry and others, of Major's Path, which was received and read, praying for a grant to complete that road.

Ordered that the petition lie on the table.

Dr. WINTER presented a petition from John Tilley and others, of Shoal Harbor, Random Sound, which was received and read, praying for a grant to make a road down the North side of the harbor.

Ordered that the petition lie on the table.

Mr. KAVANAGH presented petitions from Patrick McDonald and others, of Outer Cove, from John Pounder and others, of Gallows Cove, from Robert Firth and others, of the same place, from James Kelly and others, of Outer Cove, and from Thomas Power and others, of Shoe Cove, which were severally received and read, praying for grants to open and repair roads in these settlements.

Ordered that these petitions lie on the table.

On motion of the hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL, pursuant to order of the day, the house resolved itself into committee of the whole on the further consideration of the Confederation of the British North American Colonies.—Mr. KNIGHT in the chair.

Dr. WINTER.—The critical remarks of the hon. and learned member for Fog, Mr. Whiteway, on the decrease of the representation of Newfoundland in 1871, under Confederation, required reply, as they were specially directed against him. (Dr. Winter's) views of the operation of the 21st Resolution of the Quebec Conference. The hon. and learned member, Mr. Whiteway, said that he "must confess that he failed to comprehend the hon. gentleman's long array of figures." The resolution in the Report of the Delegates on this subject appeared very simple. It was this:—"No reduction shall be made in the number of members returned by any section, unless its population shall have decreased relatively to the population of the whole union, to the extent of 5 per cent." Now, (said Mr. W.) to illustrate the case, assuming the whole population to be 4,000,000, (which was near the present number) 5 per cent on this would be 200,000. Our present population was only 130,000. Therefore the island must be depopulated before we could lose a representative. But he (Mr. W.) would read what Mr. Galt said on the subject, when addressing his constituents at Sherbrooke, C. E., and surely his was an opinion, on the construction of the R-resolution, that the hon. and learned member for Trinity would respect. He said—"The House would never have less than 191 members; but it would increase at a very slow rate." This latter remark applied truly to Lower Canada and the other Maritime Provinces, and fully bore out his (Dr. Winter's) argument, that whilst the representation of the whole union would appear to increase at a very slow rate, the upper section—Canada West—would, in 36 years, have an unjustly preponderating majority over Lower Canada and the other Maritime Provinces, although these latter will have a majority of 25 on entering the union. But Mr. Galt gave no opinion on the constitution of the 21st Resolution, which runs thus:—"No reduction shall be made in the number of members returned by any section, unless its population shall have decreased relatively to the population of the whole union, to the extent of five per cent." Mr. Galt comprehends the effect of the 21st Resolution, as well as its construction; and certainly would not commit himself to an absurdity by telling his constituents at Sherbrooke, C. E., that the population of Upper Canada, Newfoundland, or any other section of the union must decrease 200,000, being 5 per cent on 4,000,000, before any reduction shall be made in the number of members returned by that section of the Confederation. So much for the authority quoted by the hon. and learned member for Fog, Mr. Whiteway, to illustrate the case submitted by him to the House and the country. Now to illustrate his (Dr. Winter's) view, 5 per cent on 4,000,000—the whole population—is 200,000, which divided by the total number of members (191) gives 1,003, as per cent for each member. This multiplied by the number of members for each section or Province will show the relative amount of decrease of population required by the 21st Resolution before any of them will lose a member: as shown in the following tabular statement.

Upper Canada, 824,1003	82,46
Nova Scotia, 19	19,057
New Brunswick, 15	15,045
P. E. Island, 5	5,015
Newfoundland, 8	8,024

Now Newfoundland will, in 1871, have increased from 130,000 to 155,740; but as the ratio of Lower Canada will give 21,495 for each of her 65 members, Newfoundland will require 8 times 21,495, or 171,960, to enable her to return 8 members. But having decreased 16,221—more than double the amount of 5 per cent, or 8,024, relatively to the proportion of the whole union, consequently will lose a member, and will retain 7, in place of 8. Such was his (Dr. Winter's) view of the matter, to which he would adhere until he to the contrary.

Mr. WHITWAY.—What he had stated was that it might possibly have been from his (Mr. W.'s) obtuseness, but he could not understand the hon. and learned member's long array of figures or his mode of calculation. Now his (Mr. W.) figures were very simple. If the hon. gentleman would only take 4,000,000, the present estimated population of the Confederacy, at 5 per cent, he would find that to constitute a reduction sufficient to deprive us of a member, we would lose exactly 200,000, or in other words, the colony must be entirely depopulated before we could lose a member. He (Mr. W.) was confirmed in this view of the matter by the opinion of Mr. Galt, who said that the house would never have less than 184 members, but it would increase at a very slow rate. Now if I tell by such an opinion as that, he (Mr. W.) must adhere to what he before stated, that he could not understand the learned Doctor's figures or mode of calculation.

We give below the intelligence, received here this evening, of the assassination of Mr. Seward and his son, come to hand:—

President Lincoln shot dead at 12 o'clock, P.M.

ASSASSINATE DENT LINCOLN AND SON.

We give below the intelligence, received here this evening, of the assassination of Mr. Seward and his son, come to hand:—

President Lincoln shot dead at 12 o'clock, P.M.

It is stated that Jeff. President, was at Dan. Lynchburg, on Saturday.

A battle was recently fought between Federal and Confederate forces. The latter were defeated. The former captured the city of Richmond.