

MEMORANDUM  
re Causes and Effects of Entrance of  
Maritime Provinces into Confederation.

The following outline of the argument of the Maritime Provinces in its general aspects is taken from the Submission of the Province of Nova Scotia and adopted by New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island as embracing their views and applicable to their cases as well.

1. CONDITIONS PRIOR TO 1867.

The Maritime Provinces were commercially prosperous, with a large volume of Maritime trade; a sufficient revenue - largely derived from a low customs tariff; a secure economic position, largely based on shipping and ship-building; with stable political institutions and general contentment and prosperity. Trade following its natural channels, without artificial restrictions, save a very low tariff. As Counsel for Nova Scotia said - "These Provinces could receive little direct benefit from Confederation from an economic standpoint. There was nothing that Confederation could give us that we did not have."

By contrast the position of Canada was not so happy:-

- (a) Political deadlock existed.
- (b) Railway communication with the Maritime Provinces was urgently needed to give an outlet to the sea in the winter months as well as a means of military defence.
- (c) The approaching abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty made necessary a greater development of interprovincial trade to offset the expected loss of markets.