

dollars, without any "substantial" assets. When we were in difficulties in 1895 we had our railroad, dock, telegraphs, &c.; these assets fairly represented our public debt, and on these assets the Dominion of Canada

#### OFFERED TO ASSUME \$10,350,000

of our debt, besides offering an annual subsidy which capitalized would give \$3,750,000 for our Crown Land Fees. These lands would be held in trust by the Government for the people. Now we have made a present of these assets and lands to you for less than one million dollars, we stand before the world beggared and humiliated. And in the words of Mr. Chamberlain's telegram, March 2nd, "deprived of all assets." The "Daily News" valued your claim at \$15,000,000. In other words, the organ of the Government admit that they gave you \$15,000,000 for less than \$1,000,000. Your advertisements furnish us with further proof of this sacrifice. If you can get \$2,000,000 subscribed for the pulp areas of Grand Lake and \$1,500,000 for a couple of pyrites claims, what must be the value of the whole contract, including the control and ownership of the telegraphs, and the subsidized monopoly of the carrying trade of the Colony, by sea and land? You are paid in annual subsidies over one-tenth of the present revenue, and the taxpayers will have to support your gigantic monopoly at the rate of three thousand dollars per week for the next thirty years. On the second of March Mr. Chamberlain telegraphed the danger to the Executive in the following words:—"The additional annual charge of \$170,000, besides deprivation of all assets, is a very serious thing for a Colony so heavily burdened." It was no use. "The die was cast," and the "business principles of Tupperism" triumphed over those who were "too green to burn." It is slavery because it binds future generations to pay a tribute or tax of not less than one dollar per ton on coal for ever. This tax on children unborn is not British fair play. There is not in English history such a degrading parallel. It means that our children must wear this badge of slavery because their fathers were foolish enough to discover a coal mine and then make a present of it to R. G. Reid. The slaves of the Southern States, or even the children of the convicts of Siberia were never asked to submit to such an indignity. No.

#### NOT EVEN FOR THE CZAR OF RUSSIA.

They took good care to tax coal in the interest of your mines, but did they stipulate that the miner was to get not less than a dollar per day for his labor? No, this Contract was forced down the throats of the members of both branches of our Legislature, like a horse doctor would give medicine to a sick beast. You drove a hard and humiliating bargain with the Government. It was said of a fellow-countryman of yours that he kept the Sabbath, and everything else he could lay hands on. You kept everything you had under the Contract of '93, and you took everything you could lay hands on under the Contract of '98. I am opposing the Contract,

#### NOT THE CONTRACTOR INDIVIDUALLY.

This Contract (outside of its blemishes) is an evidence of your faith in the country and its future. The faith you have in the energy, enterprise, and industry of your sons, is a proof of your intention to link your fortunes with our people. It is a pity that a contract involving such large interests should have been forced through the Legislature without the consent of the people. If you had a fair, honest, and equitable contract—"broad based upon the people's will"—you would receive the moral support of the people in your gigantic enterprise. The people feel that your contract was carried in the same disgraceful manner that Confederation was carried in Nova Scotia. The Anglo-Saxon and Celtic races always resent the purchase and sale of

#### THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

A blow was struck against popular freedom on the floors of the Assembly when your solicitor domineered, and voted, in favor of a Contract specially drawn in your interest. It would take the pen of a Dickens to fittingly describe the scene, when your solicitor rose, with tears in his eyes, and uplifted hand, said: "I speak reverently to night when I say that there are homes in this city without a crust of bread, and if this Contract does not go through the young men must go to the Crow's Nest Pass to die of Black Diphtheria." I can imagine you mentally congratulating your solicitor when he says in his speech, "We do business in a business-like way." When you read the peroration where he dictated his now famous epitaph for his grave-stone you must have smiled and