

The North-West itself, which was to be the grand rampart of Separatism, will probably be the first scene of union, because in that region there is a very mixed population, without any old antipathy or any real dividing line.\* In finance, Anti-Continentalism has arrived at an inflation of the currency. In spite of the temporary revival of trade, caused by the good harvest and high prices of last year, voices of distress and anxiety are heard on all sides. The people are fast getting into a mood in which they will not bear another English loan.

Newfoundland scans our condition and emphatically declines to join the Confederation. She is nearer to us in every sense than British Columbia. Even among the Provinces within the Confederation revivals of Anti-Confederation sentiment are

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\* On the other hand, there were reasons which, not only to patriotic Canadians, but to the patriotic Americans who took a comprehensive view of the interests of the country, seemed strong, for wishing that Canada should remain politically separate from the United States. Democracy is a great experiment, which might be more safely carried on by two nations than by one. By emulation, mutual warning and correction, mutual supplementation of defects, they might have helped each other in the race, and steadied each other's steps; a balance of opinion might have been established on the continent, though a balance of power cannot; and the wave of dominant sentiment which spreads over that vast democracy like the tide running in over a flat, might have been usefully restricted in its sweep by the dividing line. Nor was there any insurmountable obstacle in the way. Canada is wanting in unity of race; but not more so than Switzerland, whose three races have been thoroughly welded together by the force of nationality. She is wanting in compactness of territory, but not more so, perhaps, than some other nations—Prussia, for instance—have been. In this latter respect, however, the situation has been seriously altered by the annexation of Manitoba and British Columbia, which in their raw condition have no influence beyond that of distant possessions, but which, when peopled and awakened to commercial life, will be almost irresistibly attracted by the economical forces to the States which adjoin them on the south, and will thus endanger the cohesion of the whole Confederacy. The very form of the Dominion, indeed, drawn out and attenuated as it is by these unnatural additions, apart from the attractive influence of Minnesota and California, would seriously imperil its political unity, as will be seen, if, instead of taking Canada as it is presented by the political map, the boundary-line is drawn between the habitable portion and that which belongs only to Arctic frosts. In the debate on Confederation, it was urged by the advocates of the measure that seven sticks, though separately weak, when bound together in a faggot would be strong. "Yes," was the reply, "but not so seven fishing-rods tied together by the ends."—*Political Destiny of Canada*, page 62. This passage was written some years ago, but the course of events has not yet shewn that the writer was mistaken.