

the most condign punishment cannot fail to be meted out to them by their incensed fellow-citizens.

After all, it has yet to be shewn, it seems, whether the Pacific Railway scheme is feasible at all. According to one member from Manitoba, the obstacles in the way of carrying out the scheme, as defined by the Act and the Charter, are virtually insuperable, while the grant of fifty millions of acres of land will cover all the habitable districts in the North West territories. If so, it may well be asked, and asked seriously and persistently, is the union with British Columbia worth it all? What will the country have in return for the thirty million bonus for the payment of which its credit is pledged, if it requires every rood of arable land in its unappropriated territories to make up the subsidy?

A danger, no less imminent than that involved in the Pacific Railway scheme, threatens the Intercolonial bond. It is not now making itself felt for the first time, though it is beginning to assume a more serious form than ever before. Different members of the confederation are manifesting grave signs of dissatisfaction with the financial basis of the union, and demanding better terms. It must be patent to all that whenever any one Province succeeds in drawing into its coffers a larger share of the general revenue than it gets at present, it must do so at the expense of the other sections of the Dominion, and it is altogether improbable that those other sections are going to submit to such a process without the necessity for disturbing the basis of union being established beyond the possibility of its being gainsayed. As if to burlesque the demand of New Brunswick for "better terms" the same cry now comes from Manitoba, a Province which obtained terms so extremely favourable when it was admitted, that a similar occurrence is not likely to take place again. Quebec is brought as closely to the verge of direct taxation as New Brunswick, and it is from her that the principal opposition to the demand of the latter will come, unless her members agree to make common cause with our own, in which case we may expect to find members of every shade of politics in Ontario uniting to resist the demands of both. It is easy to raise the cry of sectionalism, and such a cry would soon become a powerful disintegrator of the union. There can be no doubt that confederation has imposed increased burdens on the smaller provinces, which were too much governed before the union, and are absurdly so now. The duties of local Legislatures are principally of a municipal kind, and will gradually become more and more so. Common sense would seem to dictate the propriety of abolishing all the useless paraphernalia of a second chamber, excessive subdivision of executive offices, and all the other expensive and unnecessary parts of the governmental machinery, now that the great general interests of every part of the Dominion are managed by a central Parliament. Ontario is the only Province