

The Great Struggle.

The time is now near at hand when the great question about which so much has been said and written, is to be settled by the people at the polls. When they will have to decide by their votes whether they will—

Sacrifice their Legislative Independence.

Transfer to a Parliament sitting at Ottawa, in which they will have but a few representatives out of 194, the right of taxing them to any extent and for any purpose.

Consent to pay more taxes.

Consent to pay an excise duty on their beer and ale, a stamp duty on all deeds, leases, receipts, &c., postage on their newspapers, pamphlets, &c.

More duty on their tea.

More duty on their coffee.

More duty on their sugar.

More duty on their molasses.

More duty on their dry goods.

More duty on their hardware.

More duty on gin.

More duty on rum.

More duty on alcohol.

More duty on tobacco.

Consent to pay all the duties now imposed in Canada, and pay such other duties as may be imposed to pay for Canadian canals, and Canadian railways and fortifications, and Canadian militia for the opening up of the North West and all the other works and schemes for the protection, extension and aggrandisement of Canada West.

Consent to cut down our local expenditure for roads, bridges, schools, support of our local Legislature and local Government to the paltry sum secured, if indeed even that is secured by the 80 cents a head, and all Crown Land revenues—so many thousands dollars less than we now expend.

Consent to receive this and no more for ever, no matter how our population and customs, revenue may increase.

Consent for all time to have no other road, bridge, or school than we now have (as Mr. Tilley says will be the case) unless we provide for them by direct taxation.

Consent in a word to give up all our rights, privileges, and interests to the keeping of a people of whom we know little that is good and much that is evil; whose extravagance is notorious; whose revenues, notwithstanding the frequent increase of duties, has not once in ten years been equal to their expenditure; who want us to supply them more means and new credit; a people with whom nature forbids our becoming one for many years—perhaps we should say many generations.

Consent to all this that merely we may get a new name, be able to talk about the extent of our territory, the number of our population, on ships, &c., all of which would in no degree or manner be increased in extent or number, and that a few of our manufacturers who have been persuaded that they could sell their wares in Canada may have a chance of trying.

Consent to all this that we may have a few cents a gallon on whiskey so long as the necessities of the new nation allowed it to keep the excise duty as it now is.

Consent to all this that we may get the Intercolonial Railway, which we can get on cheaper terms out of Confederation, and that we may get Free Trade which, as Mr. Amand of Nova Scotia has conclusively shown, we can get without Confederation—fewer, please, we may get.

Consent to all this that a few politicians, whose ideas have grown too large for the Province, may have a wider field and the chance of larger salaries.

At a meeting held in St. Andrews on 20th inst., composed of delegates from St. George, St. Stephen, and St. Andrews, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of forming an Anti-Confederation Ticket, the matter was deferred in order to allow the delegates from the various sections of the County to consult with their friends at home—

Not alone this city of Toronto, but every other city in the Province, has been suffering from the mismanagement of its municipal affairs. In all the same difficulty—that of getting capable, respectable men to undertake the public work of the city, has been experienced. It has been yearly getting deeper into the slough, more tightly fixed in the mud. Business men, property holders, look to the future with dismay. For the reform they see no way.

The financial difficulties of some of the largest cities in Canada, the heavy taxation with which they are oppressed, and the fact that the city of Toronto has failed to provide a reliable and unobjectionable expenditure. The citizens of Toronto who pay four or five thousand dollars a year taxes have no more share in the management of the city than the man who contributes nothing at all. The value of property has been reduced in many cities and towns of Canada, by the reckless legislation of the Province, and everything to gain for the time by the expenditure of the money of other people.

It is hardly to be expected that property holders will make improvement whilst one-fourth of the assessed value is taken every year for taxes.

Report of the Toronto Board of Trade, Jan. 2, 1885. The country where capital is limited compared with its demand, and settlers are generally dependent on their own labour, it may be expected that borrowing money on mortgage would frequently be resorted to by farmers; but that this practice should obtain to the extent that now prevails in the oldest settlements of the country was scarcely to be looked for.

The application made with this object to loan associations have become a matter of notoriety and serious regret to every person desirous of seeing the country prosper. Beyond this question, many of these calls are the result of imprudence engendered in past years by good crops and high prices, while the very defective harvests of the past few years have been the means of compelling owners to borrow money at high rates of interest, rather than allow their homesteads to be sacrificed and their families dispersed.

Now, gentlemen, I give you an example of the manner in which English creditors are treated by the Canadian Government. Hon. Mr. Rose has stated in the Legislature on the 10th inst.—“Twelve years ago, one of the largest and most respectable houses in England supplied the iron to lay down the Ottawa and Prescott Railway. They took the first Mortgage Bonds for that iron, and from that day to this have not seen one shilling of principal or interest in return for this iron except a few dollars paid to them a few years ago. They hold a mortgage amounting in principle and interest at this day to between \$600,000 and \$800,000, which is the first charge on the road, and had not seen a shilling of payment except the small sum annually mentioned. The Government now seek to transfer this title to the Grand Trunk Company, and in consequence of the security of freight, the Anchor Line of Steamers is likely to be discontinued to Montreal, next Season.”

It will now place before you, Hon. Mr. Galt's statement to show you his reasons for being so desirous of a Union.

Mr. Galt said on the 7th inst.—“The trade of Canada, was \$36 per head. The trade of New Brunswick, was \$30 per head. “All the statements, to which he had access, showed that the commercial and financial position of our Province, was such as to enable them, creditably, to seek an alliance with any country on earth; and it could not be said that in seeking or consenting to an alliance with Canada, they had any local, sectional or selfish objects in view.”

Let the house frankly and kindly look at a great measure brought down from the purpose of relieving Canada from distress and depression. At this moment Canada standing alone, had seen her credit seriously impaired. A great measure would give us a much larger hand to plough, and a much larger hand to reap. The Lower Provinces are in a much better position, and if the local revenues would have to be reduced to meet the needs of the Dominion, the Dominion would have to be reduced to meet the needs of the Dominion.

Less than a year ago, two political parties which had previously opposed one another with bitterness, a mutual use of invectives, with imputations of dishonesty, and a mutual parallel in the modern history of party contentions, found that neither of them was strong enough to govern the country. Their union found an excellent precedent in the Confederation of 1867, at which all the Provinces were delegated in an irregular manner, followed. The conclusion at which they arrived is now before the Legislature at Ottawa, and finally.

11th. Our Province of New Brunswick, to be placed in the most degraded, beggarly, contemptible position to which it is possible to reduce her.

Such, gentlemen of the County and City of Saint John, will be the inevitable result of Confederation.

Obtaining the bribe, this cursed bribe of \$5, \$10, or \$20, which some take for their votes, is an useless thing; it will stick to their conscience and memory—it will stain them they never can wipe it out—it is a viper, a worm—they never can shake it off—and it will be always a testimony against them, night and day, in the midst of the booms of their families now and over this bribe it will. They never can get over the remorse that they have done their best to hand over the Province to Canada, by voting for the Confederation candidates.

THE ELECTIONS.

The treachery of the County and City of St. John will soon be called on to vote for candidates for or against Confederation.

It is satisfactory for them that it is easy to find out what side they ought to take.

Let them ask themselves what means Confederation? I will undertake to answer for them, at once and in plain English and in plain English.

Confederation means—

1st. Taxation without representation which is slavery.

2nd. Reduction of taxation every year to be spent in Canada.

3rd. A monopoly of trade by the Canadians as the result will be.

4th. The decay of our own trade and the ruin of our manufacturers and mechanics.

5th. The power given to the Canadians to make provisions dearer by imposing restrictive duties on United States and English manufactures, and consequently.

6th. The oppression of our labourers.

7th. Nothing to be expected in the way of patronage and hence.

8th. No situations to be obtained in the Post Office, Custom House, Public Courts, &c.

9th. Our own Legislature exposed to be discontinued and hence.

10th. All revenues, territorial and casual, and all taxes, however received, carried to the Exchequer at Ottawa, and finally.

11th. Our Province of New Brunswick, to be placed in the most degraded, beggarly, contemptible position to which it is possible to reduce her.

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St. John, New-Brunswick, March 3, 1885.

Anti-Confederation.

On Thursday evening last the resident electors at Spurr's Cove held a public meeting in the School House of that village. The chair was taken by Mr. Baker, at half-past seven o'clock, at which hour the speakers of the evening arrived, and on entering the room were received with the most enthusiastic applause.

Mr. Lawrence addressed the meeting first, and gave an able and lucid exposition of the great political question now agitating the Province. The financial and manufacturing character of the Scheme was chiefly dwelt on by this speaker, who adduced facts and figures sufficient to convince any unprejudiced mind that the adoption of the proposed Union articles would be most detrimental to the best interests of this Province. He exposed the dodges and tricks of the Confederationists, and pointed out the ruin which would befall us in order to meet their bankruptcy condition. Mr. L.'s closing remarks were devoted to a warning of the danger which would befall us if we were to give the vote to the men who are pledged to preserve the independence of our common country: the entire audience rose en masse, and loudly shouted, “we will.”

A. R. Wetmore, Esq., next took the platform, but was compelled to remain silent for several minutes, in consequence of the continued applause of the audience. Judging from the unanimity of sentiment evinced by the meeting during this gentleman's remarks, we may safely assert that there were not a half a dozen electors present who will not, at the coming contest, exert their utmost endeavours to defeat the machinations of the Canadian knaves and their subsequent adulterers in the Lower Provinces.