

of change when our position is so wretched in the presence of wealth so manifest. There is no change to try, but that proposed to us in the form of a union with the other Colonies. Those Colonies are in a state of great prosperity. The Provinces lately called the Canadas have a large public debt, but they are possessed of immense public property and popular wealth, indicating the existence of industrial resources and capabilities, agricultural, mining, and manufacturing, offering the justification, while affording the security for the outlay. Nova Scotia was never in the enjoyment of a higher degree of prosperity, and New Brunswick is a Province in a healthy condition. Our allies, therefore, would be desirable friends or partners in a general point of view, and there certainly can be no doubt that political and international connection does create a sympathy; does tend to intercourse; does promote interchange of products and trade relations; does bring peoples into healthy contact, increasing their intelligence, their experience, and their activity—that union as a rule does bring with it solidity and strength, and confers more of the national character and importance upon the acts of legislation and government. History and the experience of daily life teach us that such are the natural consequences, and all these things are good. Then there are some general matters legislated for under the Dominion Constitution which are better managed and regulated by a body representing a large Nation, or a Confederacy of States; and these are amongst other things, the regulation of trade and commerce, the postal service, census and statistics, light-houses, navigation and shipping, quarantine, and the establishment and maintenance of marine hospitals, the regulation of the fisheries, lines of steamships, railways, and other means of Inter-Provincial communication, currency and coinage, weights and measures, immigration, agriculture, the criminal law, superior courts, and the common defence, &c.

Now it may be said we are exceptionally placed, and many of the advantageous consequences of union will be lost to us from our isolated position—that, for instance, and I will say in chief the means of intercourse established between the Continental Colonies, will not be enjoyed by us; but you will see hereafter that I propose as an essential that effective means of intercourse must be established as a condition of our adhesion.

Having referred to the general benefits which flow from a Union of States, and which are not capable of being stated as matters of arithmetic, and which must under circumstances not positively adverse, gradually develop themselves, I turn to the consideration of the disadvantages and unfavorable influences to which we shall be subject, if we conclude to remain out of the Union.

At present, and because it is expected that we are shortly to combine with the rest, our produce is not subject to taxation in Canada;