

desire to obtain a certain subsidy—for it is nothing more—from Nova Scotia until the coal and iron mines on their railway are worked so as to be of themselves a sufficient support for the line? Let us see how the account would stand for the Province. The London contractors would receive £22,400 a year for twenty years, interest at six per cent for a sum of only £373,333 whilst the cost of the whole work would approximate to a round million. The impetus given to the working of the coal mines of Spring Hill it has been computed would soon cause an annual amount of 500,000 tons to be raised from the mines. A royalty of sixpence a ton would give an annual income to the Government of £12,400, leaving as the cost of the railway an annual charge of £10,000 after a few years have elapsed. Such we believe is the scheme of the International Contract Company, and what does the *Chronicle* urge against it? That its very cheapness is a proof of the rascality which suggested it. The great leading journal appears utterly to ignore the possibility of the contractors in London entering on any scheme purely as a speculation, and without a view to robbing Nova Scotia. It appears, we say, to ignore this possibility, whilst it knows at heart that if there is anything in Mr. Livesey's scheme it will be most beneficial to the Province. Hence we fancy its wrath and lack of argument. To argue against a project which the present opposition may some day, by a series of lucky chances, be enabled to carry out, would be bad policy indeed. To put forward a silly argument about its cheapness cannot possibly do any harm—pressed as it is more apparently against the agent than the scheme itself. This argument and a little vulgar *badinage* with Mr. Livesey, utterly beneath the dignity of our leading journal, is all that has hitherto been urged against the proposed railway.

It is just possible that we may be wrong—Mr. Livesey may be a charlatan. After all nobody has reported upon the proposed line but the company which proposes its construction at so marvellously cheap a rate. If the whole lot are rogues and both Mr. Livesey and the firm for which he acts are swindlers, and their proposed route a fable, the reputation of the Provincial Secretary for sagacity will fall low indeed. If such be indeed the case, we can hardly think that the *Chronicle* has acted wisely. Our contemporary should have waited until Dr. TEPFER was fairly committed to a folly, and then benefitted the country, and its own party, by his forcible ejection from office. This we think would have been a wiser course than pouring abuse upon a gentleman against whose proposals they have hitherto had nothing sensible to urge.

REMARKS UPON THE PROPOSED FEDERATION OF THE PROVINCES BY A NOVA SCOTIAN.

We are to blame for not sooner noticing this modestly written pamphlet. The author's views are in some respects similar to those which have been advocated in the columns of the *Bulfrog*, and we believe he conscientiously reflects the opinion of the majority of Nova Scotians in the following sensible remarks:—

"It remains to be shown that the increase of our population, will be more rapid, as a result of the Federation, or that our ideas will be expanded by exchanging our present independent position for that of an outlying section of this proposed grand Empire, in the management of whose affairs we shall have very little to say. * * * This is a British Province,—and to be born in a British Province is, in our opinion, the next best thing in the world to being born in the old Country. It is devoutly to be hoped that we may continue in this position towards the parent state, and as long as this is the case, our nationality is the nationality of Great Britain, the Sovereign of the United Kingdom is our Sovereign, the honor of the British flag is our honor. * * * We have no status whatever among the nations of the world, except the status of British subjects, and it will be difficult, whatever the ulterior views of Canadian politicians may be, to persuade the people of Nova Scotia to accept of any other."

Such sentiments, coming from the pen of a Nova Scotian, contrast favorably with the clap-trap put forth by those having a direct personal interest in the proposed Federation. In the following passages, we see our own published sentiments reproduced, but we do not on this account deny to the author of the pamphlet before us the merit of originality:

"The Federal Government is to appoint our Governor. The Official coming here from England is often a man of rank, selected for the position, a stranger to local parties, and removed from the suspicion of a leaning towards any political section. * * * To him we bow our heads and give deference, wishing to show, through him, our respect for the person and authority of the Sovereign. How different would be the feelings with which we would regard a man appointed to the post from one of the Provinces, and fresh from the struggles of party strife."

The feelings with which we would regard any such governor may be readily imagined. His levies would only be attended by the sycophants of his own political party; strangers would ignore him; the boys in the street would jeer at him. Suppose the Ottawa Government thought proper to select a Governor from the ranks of those whose misdeeds the *Chronicle* and *Colonist* have rendered familiar to the public as household words. Would any one thus selected be entitled to our respect? Assuredly not, unless the public rates our public men at a standard very different to that whereat they rate themselves. The idea is simply absurd. Who would pay Court to such men? Who would even salute them as they passed by, or acknowledge them in any way whatever?

Communications, &c.

It is distasteful to be borne in mind that we do not, by inserting letters convey any opinion, favorable to their contents. We open our columns to all, without leaning to any; and thus supply a channel for the publication of opinions of all shades, to be found in no other journal in Nova Scotia.

No notice whatever will be taken of anonymous communications.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

W. C.—Your effusion is far too laudatory. It is quite unsuited to our columns.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

We, Nova Scotians, at our various demonstrations in public and in private, have flattered ourselves that we live under the freest and least tyrannical government in the world. We vainly supposed, that laws made for our guidance, were only intended to shew the general feelings of our people with regard to some particular subject, and to act as gentle monitors to lead us in the path of duty, and further, that these laws were always based upon principles of justice and equity; alike explanatory of their meaning, as well as precise in their text. To such, it has been our boast, that we count it our privilege, as well as pleasure, to submit ourselves. But how stands the case with regard to the now celebrated Education Bill, about which the greater part of the Province is being agitated? Does it contain the elements of right, to commend itself, to the wills, and hearts of the people? Those who have watched the way in which its powers have been already exercised will not readily grant that it does. A law by which power is given in a great measure to the irresponsible—to the mass—a law, which ignores the voice of the minority, though that minority may be the representative of three fourths of the property to be taxed, can scarcely be called just and righteous. But if the law, as a statute, is obnoxious, the efforts made to put it in force—to cram it down the throats of our people, so to speak, whether they will, or won't—is still more unjust and unrighteous. As a specimen of this, we beg the attention of our readers, to the "Educational Notice No. 3" just published by the Council of Public Instruction. It is styled "Educational Notice," but Educational *Bull* would have been far more in accordance with its spirit. It smacks so much of the Vatican, that one can hardly suppose, it could have been drawn up so much nearer home. The Autocrat of all the Schools—J. H. Rand—deigns to inform us in it that "annual irregularities have occurred in the proceedings of the annual school meetings in consequence of imperfect knowledge and misunderstanding concerning the requirements of the law;" as if anything else could be expected