

will be injurious to the Farmers, because protection is necessary to enable them to compete with farmers of the United States. The Tariff and Excise Laws do not supply that. They will be inimical to brewers.

Inimical to the Spar Trade;
Inimical to Fisheries;
Inimical to Whaling Pursuits;
Inimical to Spar and Lumber Business.

Turn to the Canadian Tariff and you will find grain admitted free. I maintain that if the tariff now imposed upon cereals and agricultural produce be taken away, farmers of this Colony will be brought into competition with the farmers of the United States, and will succumb [Mr. DeCosmos—Lower Country Farmers.] Yes, and here the Resolutions are silent where they ought to be loudest.

I shall not attempt to prove that farmers did not prosper under Free Trade; be that as it may, they are now prosperous and becoming rich. There is no better advertisement for population than the fact of the present prosperity of the farmers. Take away that prosperity, and you do away with the chief inducement which you have for agricultural population.

I go on to brewers, and these interests, though in point of fact small, are in proportion as large with us, as larger interests would be in a larger population; moreover, we, having so small a population cannot afford to risk a change, because we cannot recuperate quickly. Under the Canadian law a brewer must take out a brewer's and malster's license, and has to pay one cent per pound on all malt made, and as there is an average amount of 1,248,000 pounds of malt consumed in the year, the average duty would amount to \$12,680 per annum, in addition to which they will have to pay a malster's and brewer's license. The duty upon that amount of malt now is \$3,750. Confederation therefore will increase the malt duty by nearly \$9,000. Brewers would probably buy all their malt from abroad or cease to brew, especially when we take into consideration the annoyances connected with the bonding system. You will see, Sir, that this quantity of malt would take 500 acres of land to raise it, so that in addition to injuring the brewers, the farmers are also injured.

Under the Canadian Law, salmon must not be taken at the mouth of any river when they are going up for the purpose of spawning. We all know that they must be taken. If we are not allowed to catch them as they go up we should never get them at all. They never come down again; they go up to die.

Again, according to Canadian Law, whales must not be taken by means of bombs or firearms: and I am told they cannot be taken without firearms in these waters, so that under Confederation whales would be free to us as they pleased.

Under Canadian Law, tobacco cannot be grown without excise duty: it has to be bonded, and its cultivation would be abandoned. Alkaline soils suit the tobacco plant, and I have very little doubt that tobacco could be grown profitably in many parts of British Columbia [Hon. Holbrook—It is grown]; but the excise duty.

When we come to lumber we find that there is an export duty on logs of \$1 per 1000 feet: this will affect the spar business. [Hon. Barnard—No, it will not affect spars; the duty is upon logs only, which is cut into lumber, and is a protection to Canadian Lumber Mills.]

I have now, Sir, given you reasons why the general interests of the Colony will not be promoted. Farmer, Brewers, the Lumber Trade, and the Fisheries will not be benefited; who will? Canada will take no coal nor lumber from us, and will not increase our trade at all; but they will take our money, and much of that money derived from the very fact that we have to pay more for Canadian manufactures than the Eastern Provinces, or rather we are obliged to pay duties upon foreign articles, simply because we cannot obtain Canadian, and yet we are told that Confederation will reduce our taxation. Our Tariff is as low as that of Canada, save upon spirits and tobacco.

It would be absurd for us to sacrifice our interests in order that laws may be made for us by a people who know little of our condition and wants, and who in fact must necessarily legislate for the greater number—the people of the Atlantic Provinces. It is dangerous to place ourselves at the disposal of superior numbers.

I believe, Sir, that we are quite capable of making laws for ourselves.

If we are misled, or rather absorbed, everything will centralize in Canada, and the whole country will be tributary to Canada. The number of Representa-

tives sent to Ottawa from other places would overwhelm the number sent from British Columbia. Even in the matter of appropriations, where the scramble always is, this Colony would be overborne: we should be laughed at by the victors for our pretensions. It is the case in all other Colonies, and would be here.

It is absurd to suppose that the same laws, whether civil commercial, or industrial will be found equally advantageous to all parts of this great Continent. It manifestly cannot be so; the conditions are different. We know what is best for ourselves, and are able to legislate to effect that. We have no wish to pay Canada to do our legislation.

No union between this Colony and Canada can presently exist, unless it be to the material and pecuniary advantage of this Colony to remain in the union. The sum of the interests of the inhabitants is the interest of the Colony. The people of this Colony have, generally speaking, no love for Canada; they care, as a rule, little or nothing about the creation of another Empire, Kingdom, or Republic; they have but little sentimentality, and care little about the distinctions between the form of Government of Canada and the United States.

Therefore no union on account of love need be looked for. The only bond of union outside of force is the material and force the Dominion has not will be the material advantage of the country and pecuniary benefit of the inhabitants. Love for Canada has to be acquired by the prosperity of the country, and from our children.

I say, Sir, it is absurd for us to ally ourselves with a people with whom we have, and can have, no communication. The Tariff and Excise Laws of Canada will ruin the dominant interests of this Colony, and we are told that these laws must rule according to the conditions of the "British North America Act." A Tariff perhaps excellent to the Eastern Provinces, is ruin to British Columbia. Our Tariff imposes a large duty on spirits, and a duty on agricultural produce. The Canadian Tariff imposes none on agricultural produce, and a small duty on spirits.

If we are Confederated with Canada we become its tributary, and in all that concerns us, chiefly Canada has to act for us. In all our chief concerns, commerce, shipping, and mercantile laws, agriculture, trade, navigation, fisheries, currency, banking—Canada rules. She may tax us to any extent, and in any manner she pleases, so that it is quite possible we may have export duties on gold and coal.

All such things as require money for their performance are left for the Colony to provide; those that require intellect are supplied by Canada.

The expense to Canada is constantly decreasing, her revenue constantly increasing. The expense of the Local Government on the other hand, is constantly increasing, and out of proportion to any increase of its revenue.

Is it necessary that we should pay for the intellect of Canada? Is our own not as good? Do we not know what is best for ourselves? Cannot we do all as we like? Cannot we pay our Colonial intellect to do our business well, instead of theirs to do it badly?

The very means by which we ought to make our roads are taken from us, so that, as time rolls on, we shall have to provide other taxes, and raise loans for the purpose. The other countries have gone into Confederation with roads ready made, and large loans and large debts.

It is not fair to put this country upon a footing of its present population; on its present income; a future income ought to be calculated upon.

I do not think it wise to ruin the present population for the sake of the future.

Remember that to have a population, that population must be able to live. Confederation will ruin the farmer, and destroy at once the greatest inducement to immigration; will ruin the brewer and the fisheries; do no good to commerce; afford no larger market for lumber, coal, or anything else; in fact do a great deal of harm and no good, save that which is problematical and fanciful.

In conclusion, I have to say that I sincerely trust that our deliberations may result in good, and that whatever may be the issue of this debate, it may be for the good of the Colony.

I accord most heartily with the learned Attorney General in the belief that—

"There's a Trinity that shapes our ends,
Tougher than them how we may."