

to the other, large public works have been everywhere commenced and carried through, and the people have displayed a capacity for bearing taxation which, at one time, would have been deemed incredible. This side of the picture is sufficiently satisfactory, but is there no reverse? Is it not possible that this rapid rate of progress has been dearly purchased, and that material success has been secured by sacrificing those first principles, without which no nation can in the long run attain to strength and vigour? That our system of government has led the people to rely upon the government for assistance in all their undertakings, to an almost incredible extent, is beyond doubt, and this spirit of dependence was fostered from the start by the way in which confederation was brought about. Confederation was a *tour de force* from the outset. The various provinces were neither argued into it, nor persuaded into it—they were simply bought into it. This was done by a skilful manipulation of the debt and by granting a subvention of eighty cents a head of the population to each of the provinces, which resulted in each province being convinced that it had made an excellent bargain with the central government. The evils of this system and its probable ill-consequences were pointed out at the time, and notably by Mr. Dunkin, whose prophetic words have proved only too true.

“Whether the provincial Executive savors at all of responsible government or not,” says Mr. Dunkin, “be sure it will not be anxious to bring itself more under the control of the Legislature, or to make itself more odious than it can help, and the easiest way for it to get money will be from the general government. I am not sure either, but that most members of the provincial Legislature will like that way the best. It will not be at all unpopular the getting of money so. Quite the contrary. Gentlemen will go to their constituents with an easy conscience telling them,