

Railways, and other public works, which have been promoted of recent years on the peninsula. A few years ago the debt of the whole Province did not amount to more than four millions of dollars. Now, the construction of the Pictou Railway, the Annapolis Railway, and other public improvements, have brought up this debt to about \$9,000,000. Of this immense sum, the people of Cape Breton, who consume a great quantity of dutiable goods and contribute a large amount to the revenue, would have to pay a considerable proportion under any circumstances. Confederation, therefore, cannot alter the position of Cape Breton for the worse; on the contrary it is far better for her to bear these burthens, in connection with the whole Dominion, than as a mere appendage to a small Province like Nova Scotia. The enterprize and activity that must result from Confederation, will enable her easily to bear burthens which have been imposed upon her by the Legislature of Nova Scotia, for the promotion of public works from which she can derive very little benefit for a long time to come.

The present Tariff, it should be remembered, is merely temporary; and if the men who represent the Island at Ottawa but fairly state the particulars in which it may be improved, they will, doubtless, be heard favorably. Let any one, however, take up the Tariff and scan carefully its different items, and it will be seen how exceedingly unfair are the statements of the Anti-Unionists in the press or "on the stump." The duty on American flour and meal is after all a very insignificant affair, though it is made much use of in this crusade against the West. The duty on flour, it will be remembered, was imposed by our own Legislature two years ago, and the Canadians have not made any change in that particular. The duty on corn-meal was doubtless imposed without much reflection, and will be removed, if the proper representations are made at the ensuing session of the Dominion Parliament. But the great subject of complaint in Cape Breton is, that the Canadians have refused to impose a duty on American coal, which now enters so largely into the consumption of Ontario. Most persons among us will admit that a certain amount of encouragement ought to be given to our coal under existing circumstances; but the question here occurs, whether the present is the proper time to impose such duties. It would not have been wise to have imposed this tax before we were in a position to supply the Canadians; but more than this, the measure might operate very prejudicially in the American Congress, where the question of reciprocal trade with these Provinces is about being considered. When the Dominion Parliament has again assembled, it will have been accurately ascertained whether the Americans are disposed to make more liberal arrangements with us, and it will then be time enough to impose the duty which is so anxiously desired by the people of Cape Breton. And here it may be added, that our coal is already commencing to find its way into Ontario and Quebec. Looking into our trade returns we will find that the quantity shipped last year to Montreal and Quebec was largely in excess of the export three years