

THE BULLFROG.

*Nec sumit aut ponti accures.
Arbitrio popularis aurum.—Hor.*

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NOTICE.—The *Bullfrog* will in future be published by Mr. STROGO, Bedford Buildings.

THE DEFENCE SCHEME—ITS TWO ASPECTS.

Many weeks ago we pronounced the Confederation Scheme as it stood on paper, "a farce." It now appears that the name which we then applied to it was not so inapt as the Federomaniacs would have us believe. It proposed, we remarked, to place British North America in a state of security against invasion, and the sum voted for defence was, we conceived, totally insufficient for the purpose. The delegates talked of a great power—a mighty empire—and the like, to be obtained for the miserable pittance of one million dollars per annum. This idea we scouted as absurd and so we imagined would the home Government treat so nonsensical a proposition. Now, however, it would appear, that this million is considered a farcical sum for self defence by the Canadians themselves—as it is by us—and, not improbably, even by the delegates. We can assert positively, if Canadian statesmen are to be believed, that two Federation Schemes exist—the one on paper—the other in the minds of those gentlemen who assembled at Quebec. The one gives us glory—a great status amongst the nations of the earth—for nothing, the other will require a certain extra and unknown expenditure on our part before the great object can be obtained. If only the delegates would fairly say how much we are to pay—and the sum prove moderate—Nova Scotians should not complain. They would receive a *quid pro quo* for joining the Confederation, in the assurance of strength—and the promise often given by the Mother Country to help those Colonies which were prepared to help themselves. Let us revert shortly to our past policy on this confederation business. Before the self appointed emissaries of Nova Scotia reported favourably on their mission, the important word "Federation" supplied in the place of "Union"—grated harshly on our ears. We exposed the dangers of such Unions in general, and especially of such a Union based upon the disruption of the former legislative ties of Canada. We had hoped that the delegates might come before us, aspirants to public praise with such a cry as this—"We have arranged a Union with Canada. The Railway will be built. We shall have a free interchange of manufactures under a common tariff, and moreover be consolidated into a great united Province of the British Empire, ruled according to British custom by a central Government, strengthened both at home and abroad by a reproduction and perpetuation on this side of the Atlantic of those institutions and privileges which have made England what she is. The expense may be great. Nova Scotia should be ready to pay something towards the support of the British Empire of which B. N. A. now forms a vast component part." Our hopes were dashed from us. A Legislative Union was impossible, but Federation we were told was practicable, and the scheme of the delegates was presented to Nova Scotia for consideration. As it stood we pronounced it a farce. As it stands now we pronounce it a farce. Our reasons for thus describing it are mainly these. It proposes to be based in a

great measure upon a vast increase of strength, both military and naval which must accrue to British North America by a Union of the Provinces. This great naval and military strength however, proves upon examination to consist in an extra prospective expenditure of \$500,000 over and above what has been previously spent upon defence by the various Provinces in their present disunited condition. We argued, and we think justly, that if great dangers are at hand—if five hundred thousand bitter foes are about to cross the borders of Canada, such a sum voted by the general government would hardly suffice to equip an army, which, largely assisted though it might be by the mother country, could hope to oppose the invaders with success. The Naval defence alluded to, all reasonable men allow to be totally unprovided for by the Constitution (as it is called) of the new Confederacy. Thus, as far as the defence portion of the scheme is concerned we were justified in calling it a farce, judging it as we did by the *written* clauses which composed it. Since we penned these words however, other and ex-delegatic ideas have oozed out. The Canadians, if report speaks truly, are prepared to defend the lakes and share with the Imperial Government the charges consequent upon proposed systems of fortification for their principal cities. The defence scheme now assumes a new aspect. The \$1,000,000 reported as sufficient by our delegates, if we are to believe the Canadian press, is to be added to, by the cost of works thrown up at somebody's expense around Kingston, Montreal and Quebec. Great Britain we know is prepared to share the cost of such constructions, but not to defray them entirely. The little balance of \$7,000,000 which the United Provinces will be called upon to disburse for this object was not mentioned by the delegates. Had it been alluded to, indeed, had the delegates openly said that great works must be constructed and great expenses incurred—that the British Empire might be perpetuated in the West, much that has been urged both against the Federation Scheme and the honesty displayed by the Delegates in their manner of laying it before the public would have remained unsaid. From the paper scheme of Quebec however it appeared that we were to become in the twinkling of an eye a first rate military and naval power for so modest a sum as £250,000 per annum.

Whether it is wise for Nova Scotians to enter a union, the true expenses of which amalgamation have never been fairly laid before them—or not, we cannot say. As Englishmen—as subjects of the British Crown, we should cry aloud "by all means unite!" if by so doing we can relieve the mother country of a part of the expense in defending us. As Nova Scotians, however, who have lived long and prosperously under the wing of England, it is naturally somewhat perplexing to decide whether we shall remain as we are, or take a step somewhat perilous, owing to the reticence and Federation mania of our leading politicians. If Union is to be strength, which in this case [the delegates have only asserted,—and certainly not proved by the \$1,000,000 agreed to—let no penuriousness prevent Nova Scotians from accepting the Scheme offered. Since however, these extra ex-