

The construction of this road is a consummation heartily desired; it will be a great benefit to this city, and to the province generally; but to tell us that it cannot be built without a federation of the Provinces, and that it never will be done unless we yield to the terms proposed, is to take for granted that the inhabitants of Canada, of Nova Scotia, and of New Brunswick, will allow themselves to be led on for ever by interested politicians, and that when this railway becomes a necessity we will not stir in the matter, without asking permission of the powers that be. If the railway is to be a means of protection, it is assuredly more needed by the Canadians than by us, and it will not be possible for any party to carry on the government of Canada for any long period without yielding to the demand, which is fast gaining ground in those Provinces, for a secure access to the Atlantic ocean. Because it was necessary to build a railway from Brussels to Paris, did the French propose to the Belgians to form a federation and give a legislature in Paris control over their affairs? If any two or more governments in Europe wish to be connected by railways, is a federation considered necessary? Let us have the railway to Quebec first, and when we and the Canadians become better acquainted, and our interests more identified, it will be time enough to urge the necessity of a federal union.

The *last reason* for a federal union of the Provinces, its national importance, has had much weight with many men, and visions of a national greatness, and a status among the powers of the world, have filled their imaginations. It is said that we are now a small province, with a small population, small revenue, small ideas,