

system, by the developement of its mineral resources, built up a trade four or five times greater than that of these united Provinces at the present time. But if we wish to understand this truth more fully, let us take Holland, the neighbor of Belgium, of about the same size, and possessing a population quite as intelligent and industrious. In 1839, the trade of Holland was equal to £28,500,000; that of Belgium to £15,480,000; while in 1862 the trade of Holland was only £59,000,000, that of Belgium had risen to £78,000,000.

These are important facts, and lead to still more important conclusions. They prove not only what this Province is capable of, but what must be her destiny should she follow out the policy which has just been inaugurated. We see that, as she is now situated, her wealth depends upon her fisheries and her mines; but that the growth of the latter is stunted and rendered next to impossible, by want of capital, of united action and of railway intercommunication. We will suppose that the summer of 1867 will see the Union of the Provinces a substantial fact, and the Intercolonial Railway commenced, to be finished within three years, uniting us commercially with the other Provinces and the United States. The career of progress will then begin; and even should we advance only at the rate at which Belgium has advanced within the last ten years, we may be well satisfied. But our progress will in all likelihood be more immediate, and in a far larger ratio, for the plain reason that we will turn up what may be called virgin soil, and will be able to command, in all likelihood, an unlimited market. Belgium, by means of her coal fields, and with the appliances of capital and skill, is entering into competition with England in the manufacture of many descriptions of machinery. In the same way the Province of Nova Scotia, within a very few years, when her mineral resources become more widely known, and capital flows in upon her, will be able to supply the wants, not only of the Confederacy, but become the rival, and the successful one, of New England, in manufacturing to a large extent for the people of the United States. The expedient of high or prohibitory duties on articles of foreign produce, by this latter country, will be swept away by the force of common sense and public opinion, in course of time—probably of a short time; and should Nova Scotia be then able to take advantage