

be in the hands of every member, we find but two copies. This, again, shows the extent of our communication with Canada. Her Majesty's Government seem to think that they know best what is for our interest, and it seems much as if they said to us "You are a Crown Colony, and you ought to remain one. You are not fit to govern yourselves; we do not want you; we will hand you over to Canada." I would rather that we were governed from Downing Street. It is not, in my opinion, necessary or desirable that this Colony should be Confederated with Canada. And now, Sir, let us glance at this Colony. I need not dilate upon what is known to all. I maintain, Sir, that this Colony is one of the richest portions of the world's surface; that it has unlimited supplies of lumber and spars; that it possesses coal, gold, and other minerals in abundance; that her waters teem with fish; that it is rich in everything. Take the climate; it is far better than that of England, far more temperate, far more bright and sunny, and, I may fairly add, far more healthy.

We are asked by the Honourable the Attorney General why the Country does not get on; and I will now proceed to tell you, Sir, why the Country has not prospered as it ought to have done. It is because the Government has paid too little attention to the acquisition of population. One very great drawback to its progress and the settlement of rich land, is its proximity to the United States; that proximity is one of the chief reasons that it has not been peopled as it would have been; when we look at the energy and enterprise there, and at the field which the United States offers for Emigrants and the enterprising of all nations, how can we wonder that that Country is preferred to ours, and that people when they become dissatisfied here, should leave for the United States. The United States hem us in on every side, it is the Nation by which we exist, it is the Nation which has made this Colony what it is, but, nevertheless, it is one of our greatest drawbacks. We do not enjoy her advantages, nor do we profit much by them; we do not share her prosperity, and we are far too small to be her rival. The effect of a large body and a small body being brought into contact, is, that the larger will attract the smaller, and ultimately absorb it ["yes, yes," and "no, no."]

[Hon. Member for Kootenay—How about Switzerland?]

I say more, Sir, I say that the United States will probably ultimately absorb both this Colony and the Dominion of Canada ["no, no, no," from Mr. Frutch, Mr. Crease, and others]. Canada will in all probability find it quite as much to her advantage to join her ultimately, as we do now to join the Dominion. I say, Sir, that one cause of our want of prosperity has been the neglect of acquisition of population, and particularly of agricultural population. The next cause is that we have driven people out of the Colony.

I need only allude to our having depopulated the Free Trade system. That depopulation took population out of the Colony which has never been replaced, there was a depopulation of the Cities without any attempt having been made to oblige a substitute rural population; we are now asked to undergo another revolution which will ruin our farmers, and do no sort of good to those engaged in commercial pursuits.

I do not intend, Sir, to flow the details of the proposed terms at present, but there seem items which I must notice.

I hold in my hands the published returns of the Customs House receipts for last year, and this document shows plainly, that no less than half a million of dollars are sent out of the Colony every year for the purchase of agricultural productions, wheat, barley, flour, and cattle, all of which, considering the fertility of our soil, its abundance, the magnificent, salubrious, healthy, sunny, and more than temperate climate, we ought to produce ourselves; this Colony probably raises another half million's worth. If we adopt the Canadian Tariff we shall throw away this million of dollars, that is, the half million which we raise, and the half million which can be raised, and for what? For the sake of problematical benefits which some think likely to arise from Confederation. If Confederation should come and bring with it the Tariff of Canada, and it will do so, the great inducements which we now have to attract population, will be taken away. So far from Confederation benefitting the commercial community, I say it is much rather calculated to do them harm. No doubt if public works are undertaken, as we are told will be the case under Confederation, employment will be given for a

time, but the supplies required will come from the United States, and our public works will actually be of more benefit to the United States, during their construction, than this Colony. What we want, is an enlarged outlet for our resources. We want markets for our coal and lumber, we want our local industries fostered, and all of these can be obtained by a judicious arrangement of our own Tariff. Next, we want agricultural population, and any increase of this kind of population must depend upon the encouragement given. If our agricultural interests are left without encouragement, we shall not get an increased agricultural population; and, therefore, the country will not reap so much benefit from public works, as the supplies will come from the United States.

We shall find it difficult, Sir, to get a Tariff from Canada that will suit us, and I think that I shall be able to show you, Sir, that Confederation will not produce population. Anything that deprives this Colony of the power of protecting the local industries and interests of the Colony, and of regulating and fostering its commerce and trade, cannot be otherwise than dangerous and injurious to the country.

I feel perfectly sure, Sir, that if Confederation should come, bringing with it the Tariff of Canada, not only will the farmers be ruined, but our independence will be taken away; it will deprive our local industries of the protection now afforded them, and will inflict other burdens upon the people; it will not free trade and commerce from the shackles which now bind them, and will deprive the Government of the power of regulating and encouraging those interests upon which the prosperity of the Colony depends.

There can be no permanent or lasting union with Canada, unless terms be made in principle and foster the material and pecuniary interests of this Colony. The only link which binds this Colony to Canada is Imperial. The people must be better off under Confederation than alone, or they will not put up with it. We are told, Sir, that public works are to be undertaken. I answer that they may do good to some, but the supplies both of food and raw material will come from the United States, who will in reality reap the lion's share of the benefit; and, what is more, as soon as the money was expended the people would begin to consider whether they were equally well off under Confederation, as they might be under another Government; and if a change should be desired, it is perfectly plain that Canada cannot use force to keep the people of this Colony within the Dominion, they must be better off under Confederation than alone, or they will not stop in the Confederacy.

Our true course, Sir, judging from the statistics is not to look to Canada, but to seek to extend our markets for our natural productions, and to obtain an agricultural productive population. I say, Sir, that there is no necessity for us to join Canada; we can get on very well by ourselves at present.

The Hon. Attorney General says Canada will take over our debts, but I say, Sir, that our debt in proportion to our population is very little more per head than that of Canada. When I state this, I mean that bad debts are very large consumers and producers, and ought to be reckoned with the population. Our expenses will soon be much smaller. What I mean, Sir, is, that at the end of 1871, this Colony will save \$50,000, for one of the loans will have expired, thus saving us \$35,000, and floating loans will be funded, and we shall save ten or twelve thousand by that.

I shall not go into the question of Canada being able to defend this Colony; I do not believe, Sir, that Canada is able to defend itself. Great Britain has taken away her standing army. Canada will very soon be required to pay for the few troops that are left, and in the next place they will be asked to contribute to the expense of keeping up the navy.

Confederation would make the Dominion territorially greater, but would in case of war, be a source of weakness. It is people, not territory, that makes a country strong and powerful. To be strong, the union must be of people, and in my opinion that condition is wanting. I feel certain that Her Majesty's Government has no wish to be put to the expense of defending the country. No wish to be involved in quarrels with the United States. No wish to keep Canada depending upon her support, but rather a wish to force her into independence, to get rid of her altogether.

I am opposed to Confederation, because it will not serve to promote the industrial interests of this Colony, but on the contrary, it will serve to ruin many, and thus be detrimental to the interest and progress of the country. I say that Confederation