

Can the Imperial Parliament take the property of Nova Scotians, or confer on a Legislature of Canada the right to take such property?

Is there any other power that can assign or alienate the Fisheries, Railroads, and other property of Nova Scotia, than her own Legislature?

If a Statute of the Provincial Legislature was necessary to authorize foreigners to take fish out of our waters, is not a similar Statute indispensable to authorize Canadians to take money out of our pockets?

Have Nova Scotians any constitutional rights, or do they hold life, liberty and property, simply at the will of the Imperial Parliament?

When these questions are answered, in the only way they can be, the B. N. A. Act has not a constitutional leg to stand on. But the preamble shows that the British government are not chargeable with intentionally trespassing on our rights, and if it were true, as there stated, that we had "*desired to be federally united*," there would have been nothing wrong on their part. It is easy to be seen that they were not ignorant that the Act would not be constitutional, without the consent of our Legislature, and therefore the crown officers, to whom the Act must have been submitted, have caused the preamble to be worded as it is. But the preamble is false, and this appears to have been the only share our delegates had, of the labor of preparing the scheme; they furnished the necessary ingredient of falsehood and deception.

THE FINANCIAL VIEW OF THE SUBJECT.

It is not my intention to criticize minutely the figures by which Lazarus has attempted to prove that in a financial point of view, Nova Scotia is not to suffer by confederation.

All our revenues except \$155,000, being the amount of casual revenue, and that derived from crown lands, gold fields, and Hospital for the Insane, uncertain sources of income, are to be paid into the Canadian chest. Our revenue for 1866 is estimated at \$1,631,500. We send to Canada, then, \$1,476,500, and she allows us a pension of 80 cents a head, and a bonus of \$60,000—in all \$324,000. Lazarus has attempted to show that this sum and the above \$155,000 are enough for our expenses, and that the enormous sum of \$14,000 will actually be found in our treasury at the end of the year.

Now, it is obvious, if this be true, that if it became necessary for us to incur any extraordinary outlay, say for branch railroads, main-roads, bridges or any other purpose, we should be bound to send round the tax gatherer to collect *direct* taxes. We cannot impose *indirect* taxes.