

"It appears that the officers on half-pay residing in the colonies cannot arrange to commute without coming to this country for the purpose of making personal application to the Board and passing the necessary medical examination. It seems singular that arrangements should not have been made to enable these officers to arrange the preliminaries of their retirement, under the commutation system, by correspondence, or through an agent, subject to their being examined by a colonial medico approved of by the Board. We trust, in the interest of those concerned, that this faulty arrangement will be set right, and if, as reported, Mr. Cardwell intends bringing in a Bill to prevent half-pay officers from getting more than the regulation value of their commissions from the Board, the opportunity should be taken to insert a clause doing away with the limitation of sales in any one year."

We can see no reason why any officer wishing to retire should be compelled to visit England before doing so. It is surely no economy to put an officer to the expense of a voyage out and back merely to appear before a Board in London to pass an examination which could be as well passed here.

The speech of the Hon. the Secretary for the Provinces before the Y. M. C. A. in this city has been a theme of fruitful discussion throughout the length and breadth of the land; and the opinion has been pretty clearly as well as loudly expressed that the people of Canada not only do not contemplate any change in existing relations with the British Empire, but that they would resist any internal movement in that direction and resent any attempt at outside interference by open war.

The advocates of independence must recollect that speculations presented to Young Men's Christian Associations in the cities of Canada will have about as much effect on the opinions of the agricultural class, that really govern the country, as the petition of the *Tooley street* tailors, of immortal renown, would have on the manufacturers of Great Britain.

The inhabitants of cities in Canada being about the ratio of eight per cent. of the whole population, cannot possibly have more to say in shaping the destinies of the country either in the recent, near, or far future than that proportion gives them, for it must be remembered that wealth will possess in such a contingency as a revolution (for a severance from the Empire would be no less) very little weight indeed, and the issues would rest with the most independent and intelligent Yeomanry in the British Empire.

Now, if there is any one thing on earth a Canadian farmer detests it is a change of allegiance, he clings to constitutional monarchy with a tenacity perfectly incomprehensible to the newly arrived emigrant, nor is the mystery dispelled till the beauties of the *Model Republic* and its system is thoroughly understood, and then the new arrival ceases to wonder and becomes

himself a Tory of the Tories, for the most rabid Radicals in Canada are dyed in the wool with that color.

Those farmers clearly comprehend that this independence cry is merely a gauze covering for annexation, and the advocates of it may as well understand at once that they would be resisted to the death, because the farmers know annexation means taxation and worse.

If there is a feeling, a cry, or a sentiment, that will unite the vast mass of the people of Canada as one man it is that of any attempt to annex this country to the United States, whether assisted by Great Britain or not the people would fight while a soldier could be found to keep the field to prevent that consummation; and if annexationists want to understand thoroughly how such doctrines will be received they had better take Professor Goldwin Smith to some of the country districts and try how they will fare in their mission.

The discussion consequent on Mr. Howe's address has, however, had one very good effect, it has brought out the *London Times* with an article on Hon. Mr. Howe's speech, and the following extract will show that whatever may have been the opinions of the leading journal of the English Press when it sent out commissioners to force annexation, it has grown wiser by experience and now finds there is a public opinion capable of making itself felt in England apart from that of the Manchester School:

"That we could defend our Empire no Englishman ever doubted: but whether we could, under all contingencies, protect so exposed a dependency as Canada from suffering heavily for a time we were compelled to doubt. The first reflection to which this led us was not, by any means, that we should diminish our obligations by abandoning Canada to its fate; but we have certainly reflected that we should have no right to compel the Canadians to live under this risk if at any time they should wish to be set free from it. If, as Mr. Howe says, 'noble lords and commoners told us we might go when we were inclined.' It was not in any 'sneering' spirit but because we wished the Canadians, for their own sake, to appreciate the facts on which Mr. Howe dwells, and deliberately to count the cost. If they valued our connexion so sincerely as to be willing to accept, for the sake of it, all the dangers their position entailed, and if they would make the exertions it required, we, on our part, should appreciate the honor done us by their loyalty, and would defend them in our own way and to the best of our ability. Some of our public men have simply anticipated Mr. Howe in his desire that the people of the Dominion 'should not live in a fool's paradise,' and have endeavoured by plain speaking, to make them clearly understand the necessary conditions of the union to which they seemed to cling. We have rejoiced to find that this appeal has only served to consolidate on a surer basis the loyalty of the British Americans. They have manifested, in numerous ways, but, above all, by their preparations for self-defence, that they will hold to the ancient connexion. Should their disposition ever change, we should not feel justified in forcibly overriding their interests and wishes for the supposed

honor of Empire; but so long as they remain of the same mind, they have been repeatedly assured by our statesmen that England will not desert them."

There was no need to teach the people of Canada the position in which they stood with Great Britain, the history and traditions of the past century are still green in the memory of the people we have still amongst us, the survivors of a bloody war for *Canadian Independence* and British Supremacy against Yankee annexation on this continent, and our people know full well that neither was sustained by the soldiers of the Regular Army.

During the rebellion that rent the thirteen colonies from Great Britain English treason and Yankee force reduced British supremacy to the City of Quebec; Canadian militia soldiers punished the first, drove the second in ignominious flight across the borders with such a lesson that it required thirty-seven years of British mismanagement to rub out its effects, and restored the larger moiety of North America to the old Red Cross banner.

With all Europe on her hands in 1812 England could give little attention to Canadian affairs, the people had to try conclusions with their dearly loved cousins, the result has been to keep them quiet since, only they tried to make cats' paws of the unlucky Irish on occasion of the Fenian raids.

Now, as the *Times* has told the Canadian people what to do, it may be necessary that the stipulation on their sides should be also recorded; and it is this: "No more one sided diplomacy in negotiations with the United States, the Canadian question is always the Imperial question and the Canadian people have counted the cost of assuming it. England will only be required to keep up her Naval Supremacy, Canada will find the soldiers to settle any outlying question."

The last session of the first Parliament of the Dominion of Canada will mark an important historical era in the history of British North America, inasmuch as the Representatives of our fellow countrymen on the Pacific Coast met for the first time their colleagues of the Atlantic Coast in their Legislative capacity at the National Witenagemote held in the capital of the Dominion, whose territories extend in a direct line across the continent for a distance of 2,800 miles.

The great value of the Pacific Province (British Columbia) is the excellence and diversity of its productions of the Field, Forests, Mines and Fisheries; at present the chief business is stock raising from which forty to fifty per cent. profit is realized. Agricultural pursuits are yet in their infancy but immense quantities of grain is raised, the crops are: wheat, barley, Indian corn, oats, potatoes, tomatoes and all vegetables in profusion as well as hay. Tobacco grows successfully, the average yield of