

and, with its consent, had become a negociable security in the hands of the public, the germ of that confidence that holds modern society together would be struck at its root, and the downward career of a people whose Government could introduce and act upon such a principle, without speedy re-action and retribution, would be fatally begun.

80. That such doctrines should, in this Dominion, obtain a moment's intelligent assent of a Government, or even of one solitary individual, is simply impossible; and yet, up to the present point, that is actually the position in which this case stands;—and such an anomaly can only be attributed to some gross misapprehension of some one, here or in New Brunswick, who has in the first instance been so misled in the matter, and so indoctrinated with the false premises set forth, as to be unable to get rid of the halucination.

81. The false view so absurdly got hold of in New Brunswick, as already explained, seems to have been that Mr. Dawson had some how so manipulated the accounts as to bring an undue amount against her;—whereas the recent Commission has at least brought out the fact that Mr. Dawson had nothing whatever to do with the accounts except to strike a balance from figures supplied to him by the accounts of the Imperial Commissioners, and that he did his best in the most friendly spirit to lighten the burden to which New Brunswick's own acts had subjected her: and the accounts being now established from the authentic records of the Government by this Commission (notwithstanding the foolish attempt of the two Commissioners to ignore them) the sooner any one who has opposed payment under the fallacious impressions so long interwoven with the case in his mind, is now enabled to look squarely at the facts and rid himself of all the chrotchets that have been imposed on him, the more creditable will it be to him. To be misled, or to misunderstand an account is one thing, but to resist payment of an established public debt, or to repudiate it in whole or in part by such means as have on this occasion resulted in returning a false balance is something that can never be allowed to demoralise this community.

82. This language is perhaps strong, but it is justified: the late Commission (notwithstanding the foolish report) has so strengthened the position as to make it unassailable. The debtor has failed to prove—even to submit an offset: The Commission has caused the old books, ledgers, accounts, vouchers &c. in the Government archives to be exhumed, and have thus proved the accounts that prove the balance. The creditors are therefore entitled to use strong language and demand that the debt be paid and the Government might just as well order a cargo of Railway iron and after it has been securely spiked to the railway ties, refuse to pay for it as to refuse this.

83. This affair has nothing whatever to do with party politics, but only with the political honor and good faith of all parties holding high position in the state. Corporations do not die by personal changes in the corporate individuality and Governments do not die by political changes in the Administration: Hence these remarks have been carefully guarded not to distinguish between the personal individualities of which the Government is made up at one time and the collective individuality of the Government at all times: The act of yesterday lives as the act of