

H. S. CONGDON

REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE, ETC.

DARTMOUTH, N. S., CANADA

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This is not all. Some millions have been spent on the canals, \$239,000,000 so far and when the Welland is completed the sum will be fully \$550,000,000, on which the carrying charges for interest, operation, and maintenance will be fully \$20,000,000 annually. These canals are free. They have made a great city of Montreal, and are building up all the cities along the route. The Intercolonial is supposed to pay its way. It was built to benefit the union and to bind the various parts of Canada into one contented whole. We do not consider this is a fair deal. We have to pay our share of the carrying charges of the canals from which we receive no direct benefit if any, while we have to carry the full charges on the railway business and our share of the deficits made by the rest of the system, running into many millions a year.

If this vast trade were turned through our own ports there should be a different story to tell. We believe that had this been done from the time the I.C.R. was built this city of Halifax would now be as large as Boston. It has barely doubled since Confederation while the city of Montreal is fully twelve times as large as it was then. St John would have benefitted largely as well. There can be no doubt the population of the Maritimes would be double what it is today if the agreement had been carried out. That would be a great thing for us. We feel we have been despoiled. What is your opinion?

Is it a good thing for Canada to be wholly in the hands of the United States? If they chose to close their ports against us where would we be? History shews that has been threatened several times. You know that as things now stand we have no possible chance to do the trade of Canada today if we were called upon to do it. Our terminals are wholly inadequate and the machinery could not be created for some time. Is this a proper position for a young and growing nation with great possibilities before us? Can we expect to be self sustaining under such circumstances?

Holding the position you do and with the ear of the public, I should be very glad for you to give this problem your careful attention with a view of benefitting all Canada, and incidentally doing justice to the provinces which did so much to create this Dominion.

Please do not think I am trying to do anything of an offensive character. I am nearly seventy years old, have no axe to grind, and am only anxious to benefit the people of my native province, who I believe have not received fair play. ~~When~~ need help now. It is not in the interest of Canada to have a large section hostile to the rest of the country. That is the position today and the hostility is growing. These provinces are almost pure Anglo Saxon blood. We are losing large numbers every year, and the migration is growing. This loss, I feel, is not in the interest of Canada. It can be stopped. Do you feel the problem is worthy of serious attention or merely an incident?

Pray pardon this long letter, and believe me when I say, that this is written with the hope of doing good. It has no political bearing whatever as all the politicians we have ever elected have neglected their duty to their constituents in order to play the game

of politics'

Yours truly
H. S. Congdon,