

rated, Nova Scotia could have met all her obligations, and, under her old Tariff, have had a small surplus in the Treasury. That by imposing one per cent. upon imports, could have raised money enough to keep up our roads and bridges, now left almost without any provision though our tariff has been raised to fifteen per cent. and sundry direct taxes have been imposed. It appears to me that the claim for \$3,000,000, on account of our public works, is a fair one, to say nothing of another based upon the disproportion of our annual consumption per head and that of your people. I do not wish to trouble you with many figures, or to involve you in financial discussions which can be more easily conducted by others, but I may observe that we ought not to be charged interest on \$622,458 of Province Notes, circulated and sustained for years on the public credit. Will you be good enough to ask Mr. Rose or Mr. Langton to examine Mr. Annand's speech and Mr. McLelan's figures, and inform me if the calculations are accurate or to what extent they agree with them. If there is a per contra side to the account let it be sent down.

As this letter is already so long, I may perhaps trouble your with another on the constitutional aspect of the question. I quite recognize the narrow limits to which you are confined by the Duke of Buckingham's despatch, but we both know that the colonial office would sanction, and Parliament approve of, any changes which experience might suggest, and I would rather discuss these with you in a friendly way now, because I fear that, without the approval of the Government, I would have but a small chance to win favor for them in the House of Commons.

I note what you say in reference to my taking office, and to the example of O'Connell. My position is certainly not a very profitable or a very enviable one, but I prefer to hold it just now. I have been driven into it by a sense of duty and by the force of circumstances which I could not control.

The responsibilities resting on me are not light, and I can only relieve myself of them by maintaining for the present a position of personal independence.

As regards the present Government of the Dominion, I did not last winter factitiously oppose them. Should I go to Ottawa again, (reserving the question of Repeal, if there is a chance in our favor), my action would be governed by yours. If you do justice I will give you credit for it. The choice of the route for the Intercolonial Railway meets my entire approval, and if you can place our commercial relations with the United States on a satisfactory footing, either by treaty or reciprocal legislation, and arrange the financial aspects of the question equitably, I think I may safely say that the gentlemen who may go from Nova Scotia to Ottawa would be justified in giving a fair support to your Government.

Believe me,

My dear Sir John,

Yours very truly,

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.
&c. &c. &c.

JOSEPH HOWE.