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THE CAMPAIGN IN NOVA SCOTIA.

IN Nova Scotia the general election seems to have eclipsed all other secular business. Wherever or whenever you meet two or more citizens you are almost certain to hear a discussion as to the merits of parties and candidates, and while upon the larger questions involved Liberals all go one way and Conservatives all go the other way, it is noticed that in matters of detail there is a wide range of opinion within each of the party households. This indicates that the spirit of personal independence in politics, so noticeable in other lands, is beginning to develop itself upon this peninsula. In the present contest it will not rise to the dignity of a definite factor, but at some time in the future it may become strong enough to decide an important election. The present campaign is being conducted with even greater earnestness than was the local contest of last summer. Those supporting and those opposing the Government of Sir John Macdonald are working as they never worked before to secure the success of their representatives, and there is every prospect that the vote will be the largest which this province has ever given.

Our friends in old Canada may find it rather difficult to reconcile the present attitude of Nova Scotia Repealers with the position which they recently assumed, and are supposed to still maintain with passionate devotion. They may well ask, Why are the Liberals down there so anxious about the next Canadian House of Commons, while they are trying so hard to get away from Canada altogether? Only a few months since the electors of this province, by a decisive majority, voted in favour of separation from the Dominion. This was equivalent to saying that they did not expect to receive what they considered to be their rights from the hands of either political party. When it came to that matter they did not pretend to have any more confidence in the Canadian Liberals than in the Conservatives. At that time such was undoubtedly their feeling on the subject; and such has been their feeling ever since the present political relations were established. It must be remembered that the voters of Nova Scotia have never given a majority in favour of Confederation, while the method by which they were brought into this establishment can only be characterised as a legislative trick. The very pronounced vote of last summer showed that the feeling of dissatisfaction with the Canadian Union had lost nothing by time. The nature of the circumstances that control the case has caused it to constantly deepen and strengthen through all the years since the Provinces of British North America, with the exception of Labrador, were united into one dependency. During the local contest, and since that event was decided, the justice of that desire and the probability of Nova Scotia's obtaining her object, received thorough discussion in every detail. Every argument which might be presented in favour of or against such a movement has been granted a full consideration; and now there can hardly be one intelligent elector in the Province who does not understand the matter in all its chief bearings. All who believe in Repeal at this time do

so with their eyes wide open; yet so far as the writer is able to judge, the sentiment in favour of such a movement is now even stronger than it was last summer. Why then, is the Liberal Repeal party so anxious to gain seats in the next Dominion Parliament? To my mind this question is best answered by the following facts: The secessionists do not expect to receive what they want from either political party. They fully realise that a Government led by Mr. Blake would be no more likely to grant their request than would one led by the present Premier or Sir Charles Tupper. Still they are making a most determined effort that men of their views may be largely represented in the next House of Commons. Nova Scotians elected on this platform will form a sort of Home Rule party, and they will neglect no opportunity to present and press the reasons which to the Repealer are quite sufficient for Nova Scotia's being allowed to withdraw from Confederation. At the same time they do not expect that these claims will receive favourable consideration. The stand is only taken that the principles of their constituents may be maintained and defended. The secessionists will be very careful that this question is kept before the public until the proper steps can be taken for pleading their case before the Imperial Government. From the Crown, and the Crown alone, do these Nova Scotians expect to gain the central object of their effort, which is simply a return to the position occupied by their province before the Dominion was erected.

ADDISON F. BROWNE.

Halifax, February 2, 1887.

DISALLOWANCE IN MANITOBA.

IF there is one question more than another which has ever agitated the people of Manitoba, that question is the Disallowance policy pursued by the Dominion Government in regard to the chartering of lines of railway to run to the boundary. The agitation, which was begun more than five years ago, when the effects of a pursuance of the policy were first apprehended, has continued with more or less rigour ever since. The result is that at the present time the people of the Province, and more especially the citizens of Winnipeg, are in a perfect state of ferment over the question. To proclaim yourself an advocate of Disallowance is almost as much as a man's political life is worth in this province, as Mr. Scarth found to his cost in his recent Provincial contest in South Winnipeg. There is no doubt, however, that the people of the Province have really themselves to blame for the policy being continued. At one time it looked as if Mr. Norquay was going to fight for the constitutional rights of the Province, conferred under a clause in the British North America Act, but the occasion was five years ago, when he was seeking a renewal of confidence at the hands of the electors. Upon one occasion during that period he made his memorable threat, that if the Dominion Government disallowed the charter of the Portage and Westbourne Road, he would call the Legislature together, re-enact the charter, and continue to re-enact it until the Federal authorities were forced to yield. That empty threat was never executed, and the miserable back-down of Mr. Norquay is stamped upon the memory of every Manitoban. There never was a public man who had a finer opportunity than Mr. Norquay to win the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens in the Province, because he had right upon his side, and if he had only imitated Mr. Mowat for once, and carried the case before the Privy Council, he would have been bound to succeed, and to-day would have possessed the esteem of the public in the same measure that he deserves, and is doubtless accorded, their contempt. In the recent Provincial election, this weighty question was, to a very large extent, eclipsed by the clouds of political coal dust, arising from the "coal steal" scandal, and other issues of a similar character. Thus the real interests of the people were forgotten in the mud-throwing battle; and instead of extracting pledges from every candidate who offered, the contest was fought without the question of Disallowance being allowed to enter to any special extent. The result is that we have a Local Legislature elected, the members of which have made no specific pledges upon the question; and as Mr. Norquay is, doubtless, eagerly waiting to seize the reward which the Dominion Government has promised for his traitorous conduct, the eye of hope need not be turned in that direction. Meantime, the people have awakened to the vital importance of the issue, and the assertion can be made with tolerable safety that not a single member, Tory,