

The Freeman.

Humbly.

The Canadian Imperialists are flooding the country with political matter, in which they set forth all the advantages which, according to them, we are to derive from Confederation. We have already shown, times without number, how utterly fallacious their estimates and guesses are, how erroneous are their calculations, and how completely facts and figures tell against them.

One large placard has been freely circulated in the County of Gloucester, and in other Counties too, we believe. Not so York though, for it would not answer to tell the people of York that under Confederation the Government would be a mere puppet, and spend as much in York as it now spends. A correspondent has sent us one of these placards, addressed to the County of Gloucester, and has asked us to expose its falsehood and absurdity. It is as follows:

It is not necessary to publish the whole of this statement. The parties who prepared it first try to show what the whole expenditure of the Province now is, and they make it less than \$800,000. They state that all the revenues of the Province, from whatever source, are, taking an average of five years, but \$800,000.

To take an average of five years past, in order to ascertain what we would pay for the future, would be absurd. In the first place the Province is increasing in population and wealth, and the revenue, notwithstanding occasional seasons of depression, is increasing also. In the next place, during the past five years the tariff has undergone several alterations for the purpose of increasing the revenue. Mr. Tilley's Government within that period increased the import duty by 4 per cent, taxed molasses, which before was duty free, increased the duties on liquors, &c. It is mere nonsense, therefore, to talk of an average of the past five years.

In 1864 the revenue of this Province, from all sources, was \$1,112,297. Subtracting from this the amount spent for special services, such as Light Houses, &c., the revenue from the sources named in another part of this placard, was \$1,084,413. This year so far the revenue is even larger than it was in 1864, so that they have understated our revenue, as raised by our own tariff, by no less than \$284,000.

A nice way of appealing to the honest convictions of the people.

Here then, in Confederation we would save year after year under the Canadian tariff \$480,000 more than we did pay, according to the calculation of the Controller, in his official report.

So much for the misstatements and fallacies of that side of the statement.

Now let us see what they say we would get in Confederation.

We get, in return, or the General Government, for our share of the Confederation, \$420,000.

Subsidy on two hundred and fifty thousand tons of wheat at 40 cents, \$100,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of flour at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of oats at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of barley at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of rye at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of corn at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of potatoes at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of apples at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of sugar at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of coffee at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of tea at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of opium at 40 cents, \$60,000.

Subsidy on one hundred and fifty thousand tons of tobacco at 40 cents, \$60,000.

The "Pig-in-a-Poke" Policy.

The proverb represents the man who would buy a "pig in a poke" as one of the greatest fools imaginable.

Yet this is precisely what the Back State Government now ask the people of this Province to do.

Last year the same parties asserted that the Quebec Scheme was all that could be devised; that it secured to this Province advantages such as could never have been reasonably hoped for, and the advocates of the scheme, as well as the delegates themselves, boasted that it was an emanation of wisdom almost divine.

Now that Scheme is abandoned, at least in words. The men who once boasted it so highly now admit that better terms may be got; but instead of going to work to arrange these better terms, and then submitting them to the people for their consideration and judgment, they ask that the people shall abdicate fully and completely all their rights and privileges, and place in the hands of the very men who were the authors of the Quebec Scheme, full power to make a new Scheme, which shall bind the people irrevocably and forever.

The very men who sought to sell that dirty, stinky, meanly pig, the Quebec Scheme, full of tricks and traps, would consume the vitals of the people, and asserted so loudly that it was one of the best and finest animals ever seen, now, even while admitting the chest of which they were found guilty, ask the Province to buy their "pig in a poke," merely on the representation of the Quebec Scheme.

Even if the Quebec Scheme, and the means employed to force it on the people, did not stain the character of the chief advocates of this new Scheme, yet would it be the wisdom of the unparliamentary powers they now ask. No men should get, no honest men would seek, power so abnormal, so enormous. The people are not so stupid, so infatuated, as to give to any man, on any side of politics, the power to dispose of their country and of themselves, their liberties and their property, absolutely and irrevocably.

If a better Scheme could be found, which would guard the rights and protect the interests of the people of this Province, can be framed, let it be framed and then submitted to the people for their acceptance or rejection.

The Elections.

The papers of the Canadian party who, we thought, could not be ashamed of anything, are really ashamed of the contemptible conduct of the Government in withholding the writs from the Sheriff of the County of York, which they have refused to issue.

It is this attempt to trump up a case which can stand a moment's examination when you can test it by the official statement of the public accounts, which is published in the Journals of the House of Assembly. They can not thus deceive the people of Gloucester, who, we believe, will return triumphant the men who could neither be seduced, nor cajoled, nor intimidated, who were faithful to the people and true to their interests, and who have proved themselves worthy of all their confidence.

Caution.

We are told that some agents of the Canadian party are going through the County engaging parties to keep open houses, to furnish horses and waggons, &c., and that in all cases they say, "charge what you please, money is no object," or something similar.

Now even those parties who are influenced by money, to do what they believe to be their duty, should take care that they are not cheated by those to whom they sell their country and their souls. If the Canadian party win now, they will never want to seek the support of the same parties again, and they can afford to laugh at them, when they come to seek payment of their bills, as they laughed at poor James Nethery some years ago, and refused to pay him. The Constitution will have been sold, but it may be that some of those who sold it, will never receive the price they expected. We would caution all our readers, therefore, to look to their own interests, and not to take false words or promises as they go, if they will, as far as they can sell their country, they ought to get paid in advance, if they do not, their chance of ever getting paid will be small indeed, and all parties will be delighted to see those sold, who were willing to sell their country.

An amusing story, which we are assured is true, comes to us from one of the Counties of the North Shore. A gallant Colonel of Militia, who represented the County in the late Parliament, at one time imagined that something should be done to repel the threatened Fenian invasion, and fired by military ardour he had charge of some old flint lock muskets on sent to the County for the use of the Militia, and asked him to transfer the arms to him, that he may arm those whom he meant to call on to defend their "happy homes and altars free." He got the muskets, which were lying in the barn under the hay, as they had lain quietly for many years; but he did not think it necessary to do any more. The very fact that he had the guns in his possession, and could talk loudly, was enough to "scare" away any number of Fenians; but the muskets were useful for all that. A new election was at hand, and the Colonel was at it, as they were said to be, once on a time. The gallant Colonel perhaps did not know exactly how to select the men who could be relied upon to make a proper use of the weapons, but now he finds this an easy task. The man who promises to vote for him must be loyal, and to each of those who do so promise, it is said he gives a musket. It is a pity that the supply of muskets is limited. The number of votes will be equally small.

Dissection.—Two Privates named Carroll and Donnelly belonging to the 11th Regiment, recently stationed at St. Andrews, were captured at St. Stephens by the Volunteers. It appears the men were absent about Thursday last, and were just on the point of entering the American boundary when they were taken. An escort of the 10th Regt. took them before the Police Magistrate, who swore them in as deserters.—New.

Swearing in as deserters is a novel proceeding.

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