

it could not be expected to pay even working expenses for many years to come; and if comparatively useless as a commercial speculation, running as it must for at least sixty miles, within twenty-seven miles of the American frontier, it is evident that it would be absolutely useless as a means of Defence, should there unhappily be a war between this country and the United States. For purely Commercial purposes it can be amply demonstrated that a railway from the seaboard, at Halifax, to St. John, New Brunswick, and Bangor, in the State of Maine, besides connecting the two Maritime Provinces with all the Railways of the United States, would also connect them with the Canadian Railways, and bring Montreal, Toronto, &c., twenty-five miles nearer Halifax than by any one of the Lines recommended by the engineers for the Intercolonial. Failing, then, to be profitable in a commercial view, or valuable as a means of defence, it would appear reasonable that the Imperial guarantee of £3,000,000 sterling should be withdrawn; as the interest, to say nothing of the cost of running the road, will be a heavy charge on the Provinces, with the possibility that the ultimate payment of the Loan may be thrown upon the Mother Country.

The Province of Nova Scotia was prepared, before the Confederation, to have constructed its fair proportion of this Railway, without any recourse to an Imperial guarantee, and had entered into contracts for that purpose. It is still ready, when freed from the burden of the British North America Act, to undertake that responsibility. A Resolution to that effect was passed in the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia by a majority of 27 against 5, on 24th February, 1868.

THE FORTIFICATION AND DEFENCE ARGUMENT.

It is said that under Confederation the Provinces will appropriate much larger sums than heretofore for local defence, and relieve the Mother Country from the heavy expenditure of keeping large bodies of troops in the British North American Colonies. So far, however, no relief has been afforded the tax-payers of England by Confederation. Not a single regiment has been withdrawn from Canada, and not a penny saved to the Imperial Exchequer since the Provinces were confederated.

Nor has the Dominion Government done anything to realize the expectations of the Parliament and people of England. The Province of Canada alone expended over £300,000 upon her Militia in the year immediately preceding the passage of the Confederation Act, to say nothing of the Militia expenditure in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Militia grant of the entire Dominion for the first year of Confederation, instead of exceeding the above amount, is estimated at £180,000, about half the sum voted by the three Provinces when separate the year before.

The Militia Bill lately introduced in the Dominion Parliament provides for the actual employment of but 50,000 Militia, who are liable to eight days' drill. This is for the whole Dominion; whereas in Nova Scotia alone upwards of 45,000 were called out and drilled five days last year, equal to a total of 225,000 days' drill of a *Provincial* population of 370,000, against the drill of 400,000 days for a *Dominion* population estimated at nearly 4,000,000. Nova Scotia in 1866 spent over £30,000 for her Militia, far more than her share under the Bill lately introduced by the Canadian Minister of Militia.