

publication of his reports gave rise to considerable discussion in the newspapers of the day. Previous to this he had also been selected an expert in accounts to assist the commissioners appointed by government to inquire into the affairs of the Grand Trunk Railway. He was also instructed, during the same year, to accompany the Board of Prison Inspectors on a visit to all the penitentiaries, reformatories, lunatic asylums, and prisons of the province, which resulted in the accounting business of these institutions being placed on a uniform footing in all parts of the country. His valuable services in this connection were suitably acknowledged by the inspectors in their annual reports. In 1866, Mr. Tims was requested by government to superintend the engraving and printing of the first issue of legal tender notes at Ottawa. The system of checks established by him met with the entire approval of the auditor-general and the minister of finance, and subsequently proved a perfect success in every respect. When confederation took place, on the 1st July, 1867, Mr. Tims was authorized to proceed to Quebec, on application of the first provincial treasurer, to assist in the work of organizing a financial system for the new province. After spending several weeks there, during the greater portion of the time in charge of all fiscal affairs, he completed voluminous reports, which met the entire approval of the provincial treasurer, the auditor-general and the finance minister, and which subsequently became the basis of legislation in regard to the matters to which they related. On his return to Ottawa, Mr. Tims was instructed to proceed to the maritime provinces for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on a system of conducting Dominion affairs there. It may be here mentioned that when the Union Act took effect the old province of Canada was divided into the new provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The existing departmental machinery at Ottawa was, therefore, used for some time in conducting fiscal business for these two provinces. On the other hand, it was considered expedient to appoint the Local Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick agents of the Dominion for the time being, until the departments at Ottawa were prepared to assume direct control of their respective branches of the public service in these provinces. On arrival at Halifax, early in October, 1867, Mr. Tims found public affairs in a very unsatisfactory position. The first general election in the province under the Union Act, for both the

House of Commons and the Provincial Legislature, had only recently taken place, resulting in the defeat of most of the unionist candidates. For the Legislative Assembly the anti-confederates, as they were called, carried every constituency except one. The first local government appointed under the Union Act had tendered their resignation to the lieutenant-governor, but their successors had not yet been gazetted. The declaration of the leaders of the anti-confederate party to ignore the Union Act, to collect their revenues as if no union had ever existed, and to declare all Dominion authority at an end in the province when they assumed the reins of office, caused intense excitement throughout the country. The best informed people believed the situation so grave that an armed rebellion would be the result. Instead, therefore, of carrying out his original instructions, Mr. Tims was ordered to remain at Halifax, authorized to immediately open a branch of the finance department there, and to assume temporary charge of all Dominion affairs in the province, until such time as the departments at Ottawa could assume the management. During his continuous stay of nearly a year in Nova Scotia, and having been furnished with credentials from His Excellency Lord Monck, then governor-general, to Sir Hastings Doyle, the lieutenant-governor, who received and treated him with marked kindness and distinction, Mr. Tims was afforded numerous opportunities of meeting most of the leading people of the province, which enabled him to remove many existing prejudices in regard to the western provinces, and smooth the way to a considerable extent for the negotiations that subsequently took place between the late Hon. Joseph Howe and the Hon. A. W. McLellan, now minister of marine and fisheries, acting for the province, and the then minister of finance, the Hon. Mr. (now Sir John) Rose, on behalf of the Dominion. These negotiations, it will be remembered, resulted in bringing about a better state of things between the province and the Dominion. The thorough knowledge of affairs acquired by Mr. Tims also enabled him to render valuable assistance in the preparation of statistics used by the finance minister during the negotiations. Although for a time after his arrival in Halifax, Mr. Tims became, as a Canadian official, a special object for daily abuse by the more violent anti-confederate newspapers, these attacks gradually ceased as he became better known in the city. He soon acquired a host of friends, even amongst