

"and to take all such other and necessary steps for carrying out the Resolutions of this House as may be deemed advisable."

And that the Assembly is not in advance, but rather in the rear of public opinion, is evidenced by the universal uprising of the people of the country, who in every one of the eighteen Counties have held public meetings at which the British North America Act was condemned, and its repeal demanded in tones which show that the population are terribly in earnest. At one of these meetings, perhaps the most important, because held in the Metropolis, the following significant Resolution was unanimously adopted—"That in the opinion of this meeting, the Act of Union, as passed and made law by the Imperial Parliament, has no claim upon the loyalty of the people of Nova Scotia, any obedience yielded to that Act being a matter of coercion, and not given with the free assent of a free people."

The Delegates submit that the case is a grave one, involving Imperial as well as Colonial interests, demanding prompt inquiry and prompt redress.

THE FREE TRADE ARGUMENT.

Without Confederation, it is said, we could not have Free Trade between Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. All the natural products of those Provinces—of the soil, the sea, the mine, and the forest—passed freely between them before Confederation was thought of, everything, in short, except manufactured goods. And in 1862, two years before the Quebec scheme was suggested, the Government of Canada propounded the free interchange of manufactured articles between the Colonies, which was then declined as premature by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It is true that Free Trade sweeps away the Custom-houses as between the Provinces, but it retains them all against the Mother Country; and, to the extent of the consumption of Nova Scotia, increases the duty on British manufactured goods from 10 to 15 per cent. The Dominion Parliament at its first Session imposed heavy duties on many articles which previously came into Nova Scotia free of tax. Take a single illustration. All the types, printing materials, and printing-paper used in the Province were imported from England free; they are now taxed 15 per cent., to protect one type-foundry and two or three paper-mills in Canada, at once enhancing the cost of those articles to the Nova Scotians and restraining the industry of the Mother Country.

THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Then it is argued that the Interecolonial Railroad would not be built unless the Provinces confederated. Arrangements were made to construct that road in 1862, each Province pledging itself separately to provide its share, under sanction of the Imperial authorities; and it is because Canada failed to fulfil her pledge, that that great public work was not completed. But grave doubts have lately arisen as to the value of this railway. Traversing, as it would, hundreds of miles of wilderness country—much of it barren, broken, and unfit for settlement—