

we are to derive, are, the privilege of sending our soldiers to Canada in time of war, the benefit of being customers of Canadian manufacturers, and the idea that we shall be something instead of nothing, as it is said we are now!

It is perhaps unnecessary to discuss the proposed constitution, or to go at large into its provisions. It seems we are to have a Legislature in Halifax, empowered to go into debt for us, and another one at Ottawa, equally authorized to incur liabilities on our account. If we add to these the proclivity of the City Council for borrowing money, we shall have formidable burdens in a few years time—most unacceptable legacies to our children. There is no function of the proposed federal parliament which cannot either be performed by the local legislatures, or regulated by interprovincial treaties. A uniform postage rate and currency do not necessitate a federal union. It is quite clear, however, that a very great additional outlay must be incurred, if we are to maintain a legislature, and a large staff of officials, here, and to pay a portion of the cost of a far more expensive establishment at Ottawa. Would these two legislatures work in harmony, or are not difficulties likely to arise regarding their separate powers? Who shall decide how much money the Federal Government may borrow, and how much the local? Would a law passed here, come into force after receiving the assent of the Federal Government? Surely not—unless it is proposed to ignore the British Government. It remains to be proved what are the advantages of this double system. When the proper time arrives, the union of British North America, will be a legislative and not a federal one.