

destiny, independent of Canada, for, in my opinion, all that the most ardent Confederate might hope to obtain from union with Canada can be accomplished by ourselves as an independent Colony.

The newspapers supporting the present Government, having no policy to advocate, and no record to claim credit for, but solely to gain the support of the country by frightening the voters, daily assert that there is a danger of Confederation being brought about if the People's Party be elected. My only answer to this accusation is that I am to-day, as I was and as I have ever been, consistent on this question—an Anti-Confederate, who will not consent to union with Canada on any terms; and that before the question will be taken up in any form by me, or those associated with me, I shall resign my seat in the Legislature.

Whether those who are now trying to gain advantage from the cry of Confederation have as clean a record on this question as I have, I must only leave to an intelligent electorate to decide. I have full confidence in the ability of this country, with a common-sense Government, to maintain its independ-

ence, and become one of the most flourishing colonies of the Empire.

THE QUESTION OF EDUCATION

I regard as of prime importance to the whole island. The Teaching Profession represents a power in this Colony, which, measured by its influence and its capacity for good, stands foremost among the great agencies of progress. The teacher it is upon whom the responsibility largely rests of developing and training all the faculties of our children, moral, physical and intellectual.

Under our present system of education we have a body of men, clerical and lay, constituting the School Boards, who give their services gratuitously, and who are doing splendid work. The same may be said of the Council of Higher Education. The matters at present calling for immediate attention are the increasing of teachers' salaries, the augmenting of the grants for destitute places, and the improvement of school-rooms and school-buildings from a health and sanitary standpoint; and these matters shall have our prompt and earnest attention.

I may be pardoned for speaking with some warmth on this question, since it was my privilege in 1904, in response to a request from a deputation of the Church of England Synod, to undertake, when acting as Premier, to increase the education grant of the Colony by \$60,000—more than it had been increased the previous thirty years.