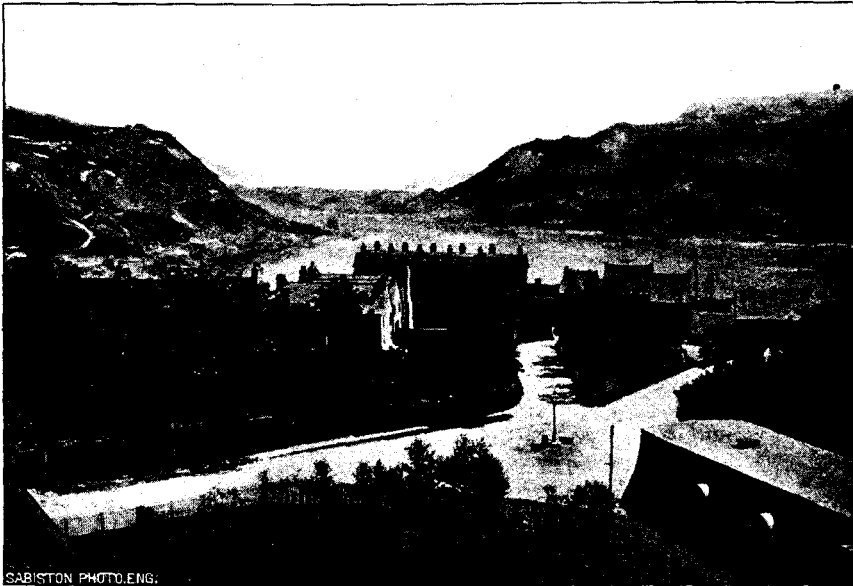


can be no doubt, and that the people are ripe for such a movement is acknowledged. After the election of 1869 the confederate party determined that they would not again raise the question until the constituencies required them to do so, and in no single instance since 1869, by word or act, have they made the subject of confederation a prominent feature of their party organization.

It is much to be hoped, now, that at the next general election there, this subject will be finally dealt with. A good deal, however, will depend upon the conclusions arrived at between the commissioners appointed on both sides to discuss terms of union. There can be no doubt

Government would make something by the transaction, the Canadian farmer, miller and mechanic would be largely benefited by it in the fact that all material now imported by the island from the United States could be better, more substantially and more cheaply supplied by Canada. This extension of her trade would be, in fact, the greatest advantage that Canada would derive from the union; but that means a good deal.

The question is frequently asked why the people of Newfoundland refused to enter the Dominion—a question that admits of several answers. The first is that Newfoundland had occasion to feel aggrieved at the fact that certain specific



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whatever that the confederation of the island with the Dominion would be largely advantageous to both. We can supply Newfoundland with every article that enters into the daily consumption of her people, other than those she produces herself or may procure from the United Kingdom and which we cannot offer; whilst, in return for the advantage thus offered to our industries and agriculture, Newfoundland would be relieved of her financial obligations and receive her share of the general expenditure for all necessary internal improvements and would find a free entrance for all her exportable produce with the additional advantage of getting all her Canadian imports free of duty. Fiscally speaking, whilst the Dominion

conclusions arrived at in her case at the Quebec conference were subsequently, if not repudiated, at least allowed to go into abeyance. Secondly, because her population, of entirely English, Scotch and Irish descent, whatever their local differences may be, are loyal to the core in regard to British connection, and extremely suspicious of what, mistakenly perhaps, they regard as the laxity of a certain class of their Canadian fellow-subjects in that respect. Added to this they had to contend with the influence of the commercial classes who were at the time—and are foolishly perhaps still—somewhat jealous of possible outside competition in what they are apt to consider as their own special preserves. The following opinion