

THE BULLFROG.

*Nec sinit aut ponit secures.
Arbitrio popularis aures.—Her.*

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FEDERATION—THE ENGLISH PRESS—SELF DEFENCE.

The Federation Scheme has now assumed an aspect which should make Nova Scotians doubly cautious regarding its acceptance. It has been praised highly in the columns of the English press, and the Imperial Government has urged its acceptance at the hands of the local legislatures. Her Majesty's ministers promise the Scheme all the assistance in their power. Now, let us pause and think what all this means. For many months the *Times* lost no opportunity of telling the world that the N. American colonies were a dead loss to the mother country, a drain upon her resources, a source of anxiety to her statesmen, a costly burthen too heavy for England to bear. How were such sentiments received by the people of this Province? We were told that the *Times* was unjust in its strictures, ignorant as to facts, and illogical in its deductions. We were told, again and again, that these colonies were kept by England for her own benefit rather for ours, and that every sixpence spent upon us by the mother country was more than repaid in a variety of ways. The policy of the *Times* was reprobated most heartily six months back, whereas it is now eulogised by those very journals that formerly denounced it. Yet the policy of England's leading journal towards these colonies has undergone no change whatever. It approves of the Federation Scheme, as a fancied opening towards eventually getting rid of Canada; but unless we greatly err, the English people are desirous of retaining Canada, provided the latter country is prepared to defend herself. There can be little doubt that the praise accorded the Federation Scheme has been called forth on the supposition that the details of the scheme could be accepted in good faith, as meaning exactly what they profess to mean, and under such circumstances the English ministry and the English press must necessarily rejoice. The impression produced upon the minds of British tax payers by the publication of the scheme are of the most cheering kind. They see a speedy termination to all trouble and anxiety regarding these colonies, and this relief is afforded them in connection with a prospect of lightened taxation. The English people are, as a rule, profoundly ignorant about Colonial affairs. They pay their taxes cheerfully, knowing that somehow or other a certain sum is annually expended upon our Colonial empire; but of the circumstances of the various colonies they know but little. To many Englishmen, the word Canada implies all British America save Newfoundland, whose breed of dogs is generally appreciated. We doubt whether more than one half of the members of the House of Commons know the names of the capital towns of this Province and New Brunswick; not one man in a thousand could even make a guess at the population of B. N. America. But every one knows that Colonial defence costs the country between three and four millions a year, and that of some thirteen or fourteen millions yearly voted for military purposes, a not inconsiderable portion finds its way into

the colonies. With what joy then must British tax payers contemplate a scheme which sets forth the willingness and ability of these colonies to become self supporting, and capable of undertaking their own defence. We can imagine the self congratulatory tone of those whose views are moulded upon the reasoning of the *Times*, upon learning from that journal that these colonies are anxious to take care of themselves. The exultation with which they read the details of the Federation Scheme must have been unbounded. Their patriotism has been enlarged while their taxation is to be reduced: they may well be proud of the population of these Provinces. "See here," one exclaims, "we have nursed another country into semi-independence,—in a few more years we shall be able to reduce our Army Estimates." "Can this be possible?" says another—"the news is surely too good to be true."—"Not at all," says a third, pointing triumphantly to the Federation Scheme,—“here we have it all in black and white—Militia—military and naval service and defence—ordnance property, amories, drill sheds, military clothing and munitions of war—How nobly these N. American colonists have behaved!"

Such is, doubtless, the language of those whose views find utterance in the columns of the *Times*. It is true we condemned the *Times* pretty consistently for some months, but now it is clearly the policy of the Federation party to applaud it to the echo! And if we, colonists, can applaud a journal hitherto regarded as unmistakably hostile to our interests, much more can the British public afford to do so. We can well understand the feelings with which English statesmen regard the Federation Scheme. They doubtless attach much weight to the simple declaration "Union is strength." Mr. CARDWELL, and his colleagues, may very fairly have reasoned thus:—"Here is an end to all our discussions with the N. American colonies. The disinclination to arm which these colonists have evinced for many years, has caused us much anxiety, but such anxiety will henceforth be spared us. The leading statesmen of British America have now come forward and expressed a wish to defend themselves, while at the same time they are beyond all doubt loyal to the core: the scheme is a noble one, well worthy men of Anglo-Saxon descent; it has the hearty approval of the Imperial Government, and we trust the colonial parliaments will also approve it."

Now, when we come to consider that Canada offers for purposes of defence only one million dollars, and that about half this sum is voted under the present system, we are at a loss to comprehend how self defence is to be maintained. Where can we look for an explanation of the item—"military and naval service and defence"? Naval defence, means, we presume, the establishment and maintenance of a naval armament upon the lakes of the Canadian frontier. How far will one million dollars go towards establishing and maintaining such an armament? Where shall we, in times of peace, find men ready to serve upon the frontier lakes? That the people of British America