

where even a pauper may hope to own his own farm in fee at some future day, and politicians preached escheat of grants, and declaimed against the degradation of having a landlord, until an idea became something more than an imaginary source of calamity. Rents were unpaid, and property was depreciated. At length a commission was appointed in 1861 to settle the question, and though their decision was a blundering one, it paved the way for the sale of most of the estates, and for the ultimate solution of the questions that have so long retarded the progress of that Island.

A writer in the "Acadian Recorder," published at Halifax, in 1862, made the following sensible remarks, so apposite to the present state of affairs in the Island:—"We doubt whether scores of Commissions, however ample their powers or their abilities, could produce any quiet, in a political atmosphere, that, as long as we can remember the island, has been perpetually agitated and disturbed. We conceive the small sphere for Colonial politicians is the cause not only of sham excitements that are got up, but of very gross injustice that is often practised on classes and individuals. There are few public questions of any magnitude, yet they must be employed. They can find no honest occupation for their time, and realize the old adage as to a valuable friend who is always considerate enough to supply work 'for idle hands to do.' They have men whose abilities would entitle them to take a high position in a more extended arena. Messrs. Coles, Pope, Whelan, and others, need not fear to measure swords with leading politicians in the neighbouring Colonies.

"We propose a remedy which we are sure will have a beneficial effect on the capabilities of the land, the land tenures, and all the raw spots which have been so long prevented from healing, and that is, the *Union of the Colonies*. Give these politicians a wider field, and they will be all as useful as they are now dangerous to the peace of society. The public opinion to which a politician can then appeal will be that which is entertained by millions of people; and in being returned by his constituency, he will be able to have a