

for they would have to deal with a concealed foe, by whom a severe blow, which it would be impossible to return, might be struck. In such a position even cannon would be of no avail to the troops. But apart from the danger from a concealed foe, fighting behind trees after the manner of the Indians, these passes are not difficult. In such a position, no large body of half-breeds could long sustain themselves, for the scantiness of their commissariat must require them to keep constantly on the move; and in any case it is difficult to see how they can subsist themselves otherwise than by plunder. The ranches are distant and settlers to be plundered are scarce. The lot of the settlers from whom cattle and other supplies may be taken will be hard.

This second rebellion of Riel's will be put down as certainly as the first was; and the work will be done without the aid of British troops. But it is useless to deny that it will be a troublesome and expensive business. Volunteers in abundance can be got; but a march of two hundred miles in melting snow, and among slush and water, where dry spots for a camping ground will be difficult to find, does not present the prospect of a holiday jaunt. Even if a sufficient number of teams can be got to convey the troops, teaming over such ground as will have to be crossed must be nearly as difficult as marching. Sleeping in wet clothes and on wet ground it will not always be possible to avoid. The half-breeds are fighting in a country with which they are well acquainted, and their habits of periodical hunting make them expert in the use of the rifle. They have the cunning of the Indian, and some of the qualities of their French and Scotch fathers. Good arms will no doubt be found among them; but it is improbable that, unless they have got extraneous aid, they can generally be provided with the best arms of precision. Such arms are costly, and semi-savages do not readily pick up the best fashions in rifles, when the old smooth-bore guns to which they have been accustomed can be made to answer their ordinary needs. Contemptible foes these half-breeds will not be; for they have been accustomed to the use of fire-arms all their lives, and they are a vigorous and hardy race. An arduous work our volunteers have before them; and whatever the hardships they may have to encounter, they may be relied on to do it.

All sorts of wild rumours about what is going to happen are sure to be started. Every possibility will at once be magnified into probability and next into certainty. That the Indians will join the half-breeds, that the American half-breeds will join the Canadian half-breeds, is already conjectured, asserted and canvassed as if the two things were, beyond doubt, going to happen. Nowhere in America has an extent of country equal to our North-West been settled without serious trouble between the Indians and the whites occurring. Among the Indians, war is always popular with the young men; and over and over again has their wild enthusiasm overborne the sober councils of the aged and the wise. Most of the causes of tribal war among the Indians of the North-West have been removed. Of all causes of war the encroachment of one tribe on the hunting-grounds of another was the most potent and the one which recurred with greatest frequency. Nearly all the tribes have sold their lands to the Government, and disputes about encroachments on hunting-grounds belong to the past. The Kootnaes have still some land left in the Mountains; but we no longer hear of the old feuds between them and the Peaguns, nor between the Saleeshs and the Peaguns, the ancient frontier tribe on the east of the Rockies, on whom the scourge of war fell whenever their allies became engaged with their enemies. Horse-stealing, which a century ago was often chosen as the alternative excitement for war, is becoming a lost art under the vigilance of the mounted police; but the desire of the young men for war survives. And more than all, the virtual extermination of the bison leaves the Indians without their ordinary source of food supply; and all attempts to make them agriculturists during the last three hundred years have hopelessly failed. Among Indians any more than among white people an excuse for war is never wanting if the desire for it exists. The American Indians have always and everywhere been suspicious of the whites, in whose steady march they read their own doom. The collision between the two races has never had, and never can have, but one ultimate result; but all lessons are lost on the Indians, and the fact that a cause is desperate is not a sufficient motive for them to refuse to embrace it.

We may rely upon the American Government to perform its international obligation—to prevent the fitting out of any expedition, south of the line, for hostile operations in our territory. But stragglers bent on mischief it will be impossible to prevent crossing; and along the Montana frontier a restless population, fond of excitement and reckless of life, is scattered. From these men, hunters, cattle-thieves, outlaws, it cannot be said there is no danger. But this danger we must be prepared to meet, while relying upon the American Government to do every thing in its power to fulfil its international obligation in refusing to allow its territory to be made a base of operations against the peace of a neighbouring and friendly nation.

KABIBONICA.

DISCONTENT IN NOVA SCOTIA.—I.

THERE is considerable danger that the significance of a resolution carried in the Nova Scotian Legislature on Friday last may be overlooked by reason of the all-absorbing interest felt in the North-West troubles. Mr. J. A. Fraser, M.P.P. for the County of Guysborough, some time ago gave notice of a resolution looking towards secession from Confederation, and the matter was discussed at considerable length last week. Though the original resolution was not carried, the amendment of the Government which was actually adopted—to the effect that, in the event of "better terms" not being granted by the Dominion Parliament by the close of the present session, the House would consider the advisability of severing connection with Canada—appears to confirm the impression that there is a growing desire in Nova Scotia to quit the Union.

The Maritime Provinces being an integral and important part of the Confederation, a break in that direction would tend to dispel the dream of the more enthusiastic friends of the Union. It is therefore worth while to ascertain if possible the grounds to the present discontent and see whether they are well founded or likely to lead to anything more than mere idle agitation. That great dissatisfaction does exist in Nova Scotia with the existing condition of affairs is beyond all question, and the reasons for it are simple enough to anyone who is familiar with the history of politics in that Province for the past thirty years. Prior to Confederation the Province of Nova Scotia was prospering. With an *ad valorem* tariff of 12½ per cent. the revenue was sufficient for all the wants of the Province. Railway communication had been carried eastward to Pictou and westward to Annapolis, and without increasing the tariff it would have been possible to have carried forward railway construction until every part of the Province, from Yarmouth to Cape Breton, had secured the benefit of railway communication. The road and bridge service of the Province was well supported by a liberal grant from the Provincial Exchequer, and the educational system was developing under the fostering care of the government. Halifax, the capital, was the centre of the trade of the Province. It was the chief importing town of the Maritime Provinces. It was the centre of a lucrative West India trade, from the profits of which splendid fortunes were built up. Nearly every trader in the Province and some in Prince Edward Island obtained their goods through the Halifax wholesale dealers, and the city, while not growing very rapidly in population, was yet accumulating wealth and laying the foundation of a substantial prosperity.

When Confederation was first mooted the people pondered over these things and concluded it would not be in their interests to unite with the Upper Provinces. It was urged that the immediate result would be that the Customs duties would be increased, and some even went so far as to hint that a policy of Protection might eventually be adopted by the Confederacy. Those who advocated Union repudiated this idea in the strongest terms, and asserted that this would be in violation of a clear understanding between the contracting parties. It was proclaimed that in order to meet the wishes of the Maritime Provinces in the direction of low tariffs, the first government to be formed would fix the tariff at 15 per cent., which was less than the Province of Canada had been imposing. None of these arguments or promises changed the mind of the majority of the people of Nova Scotia. They did not want Union. It was forced upon them by a Parliament which had been elected without any thought of Confederation. The proof that the people were hostile to this Union is put beyond dispute in the general elections which ensued. On the 17th September, 1867, the election of the first delegation to serve in the House of Commons was held, and on the same day the first Local Assembly of the Province after Confederation was elected. There was only one issue—Confederation. The party names were not Liberal and Tory, or Radical and Conservative: it was Unionist and Anti-Unionist. So strong was the sentiment thus created that in most of the rural districts in Nova Scotia the names are still preserved. A supporter of the Liberal Party in most of the rural districts to-day is known as an "Anti." The result of the elections thus held was as follows: Of the nineteen constituencies which sent members to the House of Commons, eighteen went by large, and, in most cases, by overwhelming majorities. Charles Tupper alone saved himself in Cumberland by super-human efforts and the expenditure of large sums of money. His majority was merely nominal, and although he was the author of Confederation and the ablest leader of the party, he was so unpopular that he did not venture to take a seat in the first administration formed. In the Local Assembly the result was parallel. Out of thirty-eight seats the Anti's carried thirty-six, most of them by immense majorities.

Then followed a long and fierce agitation for Repeal. Delegates were sent to England, leagues were formed and all constitutional measures resorted to to get out of the Union. At last the leader of the Anti-Confederate cause, Joseph Howe, was induced to join Sir John Macdonald's