

Scotia, to relieve that pressure by every means in their power. They are also ready to discuss any Financial or Commercial questions that may be raised by the Nova Scotian Government or yourself, and the representatives of Nova Scotia in the Parliament of the Dominion.

You may remember that I suggested to the Committee that Mr. Annand, the Finance Minister of the Province, or any other gentleman or gentlemen selected for the purpose, should visit Ottawa and sit down with the Finance Minister here, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any inequality or injustice exists, the extent of such inequality and the best remedy. And I now reiterate the assurance I then gave, that the Government here will consider the question not in a rigid, but in the most liberal spirit, with a desire to do even more than justice for the sake of securing the co-operation of the people in Nova Scotia in working the new Constitution. We will enter upon this enquiry whenever it suits your convenience, and the Canadian Government engage to press upon Parliament, with all the influence they possess, the legislation required to carry out any financial readjustment that may be agreed upon.

I am aware that even if the Union Act were accepted, objections are taken by leading politicians in Nova Scotia to some of its constitutional (and non financial) provisions.

Now the Constitution is a new one, and to a considerable degree experimental, but it seems to me that it should have a fair trial, before we pronounce it so defective as to call for immediate alteration—still, that is altogether a matter of opinion.

The proper, indeed the only place for discussing any such changes is in the Parliament of the Dominion, and the able men who represent Nova Scotia will have full opportunity of pressing their views in their places there.

It is so obviously the interest of the Government and Parliament of the Dominion that the Union should work satisfactorily, that the Nova Scotian representatives may rest well assured of every suggestion of theirs being fully considered. Meanwhile, I would desire to impress upon you the great injury that is caused to the material interests of Nova Scotia by its not being fully represented in the Government of the Dominion, and by the position of isolation assumed by yourself and your co-representatives in the Parliament here. Questions of the greatest importance in the administration of affairs are continually arising, in which Nova Scotia should have a potential voice—and I may instance the rights of our Fishermen, the subject of Reciprocity and other matters of almost equal importance.

The Canadian Government, I see by the anti-Union papers, are charged with an unwise administration of public affairs, so far as Nova Scotia is concerned. All that I can say is, that we act according to the best information that we can obtain, and that if mistakes are made the fault is not ours.

I have already invited you to give us your aid and advice as a Minister, and regret extremely that you do not see your way to taking that position.

I trust that you may be able to do so—the sooner the better. Meanwhile, why do you, and those who act with you, not pursue a course