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When a girl does decide to wear sensible shoes life is a misery for her until they wear out because she thinks everyone regards her as a freak.

THE MARITIME PROVINCES TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS

The Conference of Premiers at Halifax Should be Productive of Much Good — The Maritime Provinces Have a Strong Claim for Compensation in Regard to Western Lands — Gains from Confederation Have Been Disappointing.

(Halifax Chronicle)

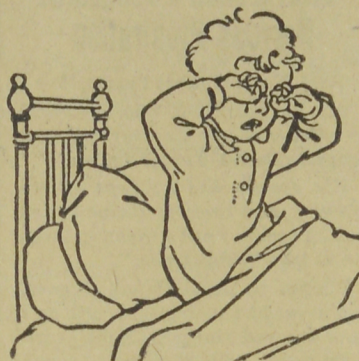
The meeting of the Premiers and Ministers of the three Maritime Provinces, in Halifax, to discuss and take action with regard to various important matters vitally affecting the interests of his section of the Dominion should surely be productive of practical good. They will no doubt receive strong support and assistance from the able and well informed delegation appointed by the Maritime

Board of trade to wait on them and strengthen their hands.

The great question with which they have to deal is of course compensation to these provinces for the alienation of the public land domain of Canada in which they had as direct and tangible an interest as any of the peoples or Provinces of the Dominion. The fact that they are separated by a considerable distance from the lands towards the purchase of which for all

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Canada they contributed in as full proportion as did the other Provinces does not in the least interfere with their legal and equitable rights in those lands, and to compensation for their alienation equivalent in ratio to their value to those upon whom they were bestowed.

The simple truth is that those lands have greatly enriched the various provincial governments to whom they were handed over, while the governments of the Maritime Provinces have been left in comparative and almost actual poverty. It had a low tariff and no direct taxation. It had a population not so far below that of today. No sooner had Confederation been effected than tariff taxation was doubled. The Intercolonial Railway, less than six hundred miles in length, was completed as required by the British North America Act. That was all. Even it has now been absorbed in the Canadian National Railway system, and is being managed not for our special benefit as intended, but for the benefit of the Western Provinces and to our disadvantage. This sums up our gains under Confederation, apart from its moral benefits, whatever they may amount to. Of course we now have the "Ocean Terminals" at Halifax, but which of us would not gladly give them away, if we could, and replace things as they were?

The East Soaked

During the years from 1867 until the present, we were assessed first for the purchase of the old Hudson's Bay Territory. That fell mainly on the four original Provinces. Then we were held up for the building of the C. P. R. at an enormous cost in money and lands. Before that we were "soaked" for the redemption from bankruptcy of the Grand Trunk Railway, and for fifteen million dollars lent to the Company not one cent of interest on which, much less the principal has ever been paid. Afterwards came the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific, which have been taken over by the Dominion Government at grossly inflated prices, and are being run at the cost of huge annual deficits which, we fear, give promise of being perpetual.

In the meantime the public land domain has been dissipated as rapidly as possible. There were enormous grants to the C. P. R. and other railway organizations to induce them to build through uninhabited wildernesses. As some of those wildernesses became partly peopled they were constituted as Provinces and vast tracts of the public real estate bestowed on them, under various pretexts. They now are demanding the residue.

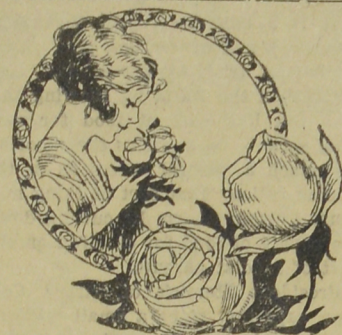
Out of those free gifts they have been able to found elaborate and costly universities with superabundant revenues, while Maritime Province people have to dig down into their private pockets for every dollar needed to support our struggling and poverty stricken institutions of learning.

Have Big Revenues

The new Western Provinces have absolutely no source of income except the Dominion Treasury. They have no such taxation as we practically have in our coal royalties. Yet each of them enjoys a revenue four or five times greater than ours. They are able to build and do build palaces for their Legislatures and for their Lieutenant Governors, while we must get on with what we had before Confederation.

Yet their populations, with the exception of that of one province which has a few thousands more than Nova Scotia, are considerably less than ours. They are now clamoring for possession of all that remains of the public land domain and are very likely to get it. No thought of consideration for us and our rights—to say nothing of our wrongs—seems to enter their minds. Even Quebec and Ontario have been endowed with enormous slices of Federal lands. Manitoba has been far more than quadrupled in size.

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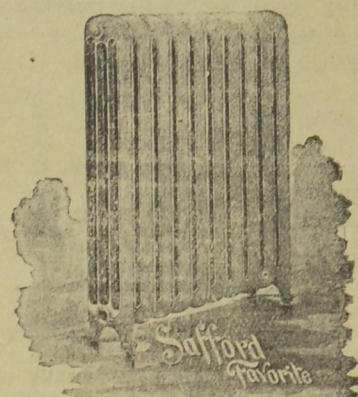
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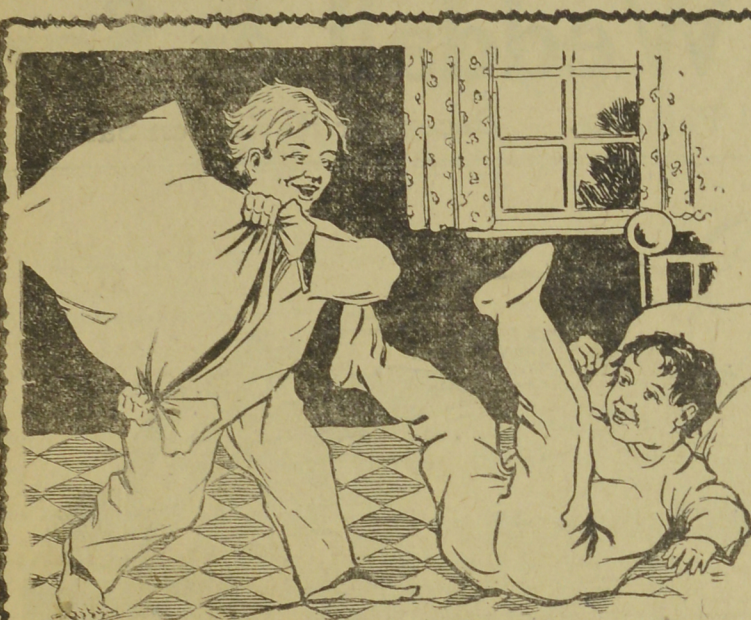
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