

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Confederation With Canada Becoming a Live Question—Why the Colony Has Held Aloof From Dominion.

Confederation is again becoming a live question in Newfoundland. This year a general election will divide the people upon the issue. Many look to Canada as the true haven of the island colony. They point out that its manifest destiny is membership in the great Canadian Confederation, that a time of prosperity like the present is the best time for making advantageous terms, and, finally, that the settlement of the French shore question removes the last bar to the happy union of all the British possessions in North America.

It is now forty years since the union of the Canadas and Newfoundland was first discussed. From our former failures in this connection we have something to learn. In 1864, when the idea of the union of the British colonies on this continent was put forward, Newfoundland, along with the other provinces and colonies, was invited to take part in the negotiations. It was represented by Sir Ambrose Shea and Mr. F. B. T. Carter, who framed what the delegates hoped would prove an acceptable basis of union. But the idea was not popular in Newfoundland. On their return the delegates were ridiculed and reviled, and represented as selling the independence of the colony to Canada. The proposals were overwhelmingly defeated at the polls.

Soon afterwards, in June, 1869, the Newfoundland Government promulgated the terms on which the colony would enter Confederation. These terms would not be considered moderate. They proposed that Newfoundland should have a debt allowance equal to \$25 per head of population, \$35,000 a year for legislative expenses, a subsidy of 80 cents per head, and \$150,000 in lieu of Crown lands. Canada was quite willing to accept the terms, but the Newfoundland Legislature suddenly changed its mind, defeated the Government that proposed them, and declared for separate existence.

This settled the issue for nearly twenty years. In 1888 Sir Charles Tupper paid a visit to St. John's. On his return the Governor-General of Canada sent a message to the Governor of Newfoundland, stating that the Canadian Government considered the time convenient for the discussion of union, and was confident that no difficulty would be experienced in arranging the terms. It was suggested that the Newfoundland Legislature should send a deputation to negotiate, and also that the delegates should represent both the Ministerialists and Oppositionists. To this the Governor of Newfoundland replied: "The question is now being discussed among the parties, and your correspondent has no doubt but that a deputation will be sent." No deputation was sent, however.

Then arose the dispute over the Bond-Blaine Treaty, in which Canada objected to Newfoundland making a fisheries arrangement at Washington independently of this country. Newfoundland, taking umbrage at this, refused bait to Canadians. Finally, however, a conference restored harmony. At the conference Sir John Thompson proposed Confederation as a solution of all the difficulties, but the Newfoundland delegates replied they were not authorized to discuss it.

Dark days financially overtook Newfoundland in the succeeding years. Driven to the verge of bankruptcy the colony sent delegates to Ottawa to discuss Confederation. Then were proposed the terms which Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his colleagues considered excessive. Canada made counter-proposals, which Newfoundland rejected. And thus the conference proved fruitless. Canada's proposals were based on the terms accorded to the existing members of the Confederation. Our Government offered, first of all, to assume a debt of \$8,350,000, and to pay interest on \$2,000,000 in addition. Thus the total obligation to be assumed was limited to \$10,350,000, or fifty dollars per head of population. The colony was offered on annual subsidy of \$465,000, which was made up as follows: \$50,000 allowance for legislation, \$165,000 per capita subsidy, at 80 cents per head of population, \$150,000 allowance for Crown lands, timber and mines, and \$100,000, being five per cent. on the excess debt.

Between the offer of Canada and the request of Newfoundland there was a difference of about \$354,000 a year. The first point of divergence was with regard to the assumption of the debt. Newfoundland asked Canada to assume nearly \$16,000,000 of debt. Of this about \$6,000,000 had been incurred on account of the island railway, which Canada was asked to complete to Port Aux Basques. It has since been completed. Newfoundland asked also for \$250,000 a year, in lieu of its Crown lands, \$100,000 more than Canada's offer; and \$150,000 a year in bounties to fishermen. To the latter proposal Canada replied that the Newfoundland fishermen would be paid the same bounties as were accorded at any time to the Canadian fishermen.

The great obstacle to agreement had been the amount of public debt the Dominion should assume. The theory of Confederation is that the provinces enter it on equal terms financially. Hence, whatever debt allowance is made to one province all the other provinces claim a proportionate allowance. By conceding to Newfoundland \$6,000,000 more than

its proportionate share, or an excess of 60 per cent., the Dominion would invite claims from the different provinces for compensation. The Dominion has assumed, or allowed, provincial debts to the aggregate of \$109,430,148. If we were to increase this by 60 per cent., as Newfoundland practically proposed, we would incur an obligation of more than \$65,000,000, exclusive of the debt of Newfoundland. This prospect caused Canada to pause and count the cost. It certainly justified caution.

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Choice of all our Men's
Fine Worsted Suits,

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A lot of little gent's 2-piece Suits to
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Straight band or wing style, in all

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6. Greeneries.
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11. Hardware, Tinware, Paints, etc.
12. Lumber.

Details of information as to form of con-
tract, together with forms of tender, will be
furnished on application to the Wardens of
the various institutions.
All supplies are subject to the approval of
the Warden or Jailor.
All tenders submitted must specify clearly
the institution, or institutions, which it is
proposed to supply, and must bear the en-
dorsement of at least two responsible sureties.
Papers inserting this notice without author-
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DOUGLAS STEWART,
GEO. W. DAWSON,
Inspectors of Penitentiaries.
Department of Justice.
Ottawa, May 31, 1904

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sale and is spoken of in the highest terms.
The book is presented in an attractive cover
design of white purple and gold, with
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description of several years in the Northwest,
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ALL OVER HER BODY.

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A remedy without a rival for the cure of
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Dec. 31, 1903,	2,386,617.13	10,204,727.03	563,565.59	57,385,198.00
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