

#1

Mother Country is becoming tired...

Excerpt from an article published in the Saint John Morning Telegraph on September 12, 1864 discussing British politicians Lord Palmerston, Earl Derby, Gladstone and Goldwin Smith perceptions of Great Britain's colonies.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

The Morning Telegraph September 12, 1864

... the Mother Country [Great Britain] is becoming tired of her Colonial dependencies. This is undoubtedly the prevailing sentiment [popular feeling] among the English statesmen [politicians]. Veterans like Lord Palmerston and Earl Derby may not say so, whatever they may feel; they leave the expression of such radical sentiments to the new school of politicians, to rising men of the stamp of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goldwin Smith We consider, then, that the time is near at hand when we shall be told to shift ourselves; and the American difficulty [American Civil War], if we are not greatly mistaken, had brought the time considerably nearer ... than it otherwise would be.

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#2

Concerning the Grand Union

Excerpt from an article published in the Saint John Morning Telegraph, on September 16, 1864.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

The Saint John Morning Telegraph

September 16, 1864

We wish we could hold out to the Canadian politicians now among us some encouragement of an early Confederation of all the Provinces But the truth must be told, and it is simply this—that so far as New Brunswick is concerned the people have given the subject very slender [little] consideration. Unlike Canadians and Nova Scotians and Islanders, we New Brunswickers are not greatly given to party politics; consequently a measure of this kind is not apt [likely] to be forced upon the electors before its time, or smuggled through the Legislature because a few politicians desire it. The Press, too, is less under the control of politicians here than in any other portion of Her Majesty's dominions, and therefore reflects the views of the people, instead of the wishes of a few leading men in our little Legislature

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#3

Speech by Samuel Leonard Tilley, January 2, 1865

Excerpt from a speech made by Premier Samuel Tilley to the New Brunswick House of Assembly on January 2, 1865, to the House of Assembly.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Samuel Leonard Tilley
January 2, 1856

... Let us look at the facts. What do we retain under the proposed constitution? What do we gain? And what do we give up? We retain as now a Lieutenant Governor, the representative of the Crown, but who will be, as now he is not, appointed from ourselves. We retain our responsible Executive Council, administering within the province all the functions of Government—we retain our Legislative Council and our House of Assembly, to which, as now, and not to the Parliament at Ottawa, the Executive Government of the Province will be responsible. We retain the absolute control of all ungranted lands—we retain the exclusive property of mines and minerals—we construct and manage at our pleasure all our public works—our railroads, docks, hospitals, gaols (jails), roads, bridges, and such like; we retain our laws intact, and every officer in the province (except postmen)—every constable, every magistrate, every sheriff, will be appointed by the Executive Council as is now the case. Nay even the Legislative Councillors of the Federated Parliament are to be names on the recommendation of the Local Executive and it was understood that the Judges were to be appointed in a similar manner. This is not surrendering, gentlemen, to a central body the right of self-government, which we enjoy and which we are so proud to possess.

© Unknown. As quoted in *On the powers that will be held by New Brunswick after Confederation: Documents on the Confederation of British North America* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1969) p. 172-173.



#4

Election Campaign, March 8, 1865

Excerpt from an election poster published in the Weekly Telegraph on March 8, 1865.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Election Campaign March 8, 1865

Do you wish Canada Oats, Beef, Pork, Butter etc., to come into this country at one half the price you are now receiving? Do you wish the whole Revenue of this country to be handed over to ... the dishonest Statesmen of Canada? If you wish these things, then vote today for Fisher, Street and Dow.

© Unknown. As quoted in Waite, P.B. The Life and Times of Confederation: 1864-1867 (Toronto: Robin Brass Studio, 2001) p. 262.



#5

Poem about the Charlottetown Conference

Poem published in the Borderer, a Sackville, NB newspaper on March 17, 1865.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

The Sackville Borderer
March 17, 1865

Reader you know as well as I,
How there 'mid scenes of revelry [parties],
At festive boards, at midnight balls,
With dance and song, in lordly hall ...
Where'er they turned, on every hand,
They met the Wizard with his wand,
He sparkl'd in the ruby wine,
He glitter'd in the dresses fine ...
Yet there amid these scenes they laid
The cornerstone of what they said,
Would make of us a mighty nation,
And christen'd [named] it, "Confederation!"

© Public Domain – originally published in Sackville (N.B.) Borderer, March 17, 1865, quoted in Waite, P. B. The Life and Times of Confederation: 1864–1867. (Toronto: Robin Brass Studio, 2001) p. 79.



#6

Speech by Peter Mitchell

Excerpt from a speech given by politician Peter Mitchell to the New Brunswick Legislative Council on April 16, 1866.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Peter Mitchell
April 16, 1866

Isolation is dangerous to our liberty and destructive to our progress. Our people are industrious (hard-working)-our resources abundant (many)-but union is necessary to our success. Association by national union with three or four millions of people, attached to the institutions of our parent state, would give us a strength and importance which we do not possess. We would have extended markets for our ships and other manufacturers, and by increased trade, an increased home market for the farmer ...

Railroads ere (before) long would connect our principal cities and towns with the world outside of us, and in course of time we might look forward to their extension across the continent ...

We are now as colonists comparatively a free people, but history indicates that a small province cannot long remain independent beside a powerful and rapacious (greedy) neighbour. In union there is strength, security, and continued freedom. Out of it there is before us annexation and extinction of national existence, with the doubtful advantage of having to pay a share of the enormous war debt of our neighbours.

© Public Domain. As quoted in Ed. Aizenstat, J et al. Canada's Founding Debates (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999) p. 132-133.



#7

Effect of the Fenian Manifesto on Confederation

Newspaper article printed in the New Brunswick Reporter on April 27, 1866, in response to the Fenian Manifesto on Confederation.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

The New Brunswick Reporter
April 27, 1866

It was an unlucky hour for the anti-Confederates when Mr. Killian [leader of the Fenians] put forth his manifesto declaring against Confederation. Nothing could have been done equal to it to carry Confederation. Those who opposed the Scheme and who yet dislike it will sink that and many other objectionable points, in their love for British institutions and allegiance to the British flag.

Waite, P. B. Confederation, 1854–1867. Toronto: Holt, Rinehart and Winston of Canada, 1972. Pg. 117.



#8

Speech by Samuel Leonard Tilley

Excerpt from a speech given by Premier Samuel Tilley to the New Brunswick House of Assembly on June 29, 1866.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Samuel Leonard Tilley
June 29, 1866

He (Smith) says we have not a sufficient number of representatives in the upper branch of the legislature (Senate). There might be some concessions made to us in this. When the arrangement was made, and representation by population was conceded, it was considered that there was a great protection given to the Maritime provinces, for New Brunswick was to have one representative for every 25 000 of her population, Lower Canada one to every 50 000, and Upper Canada one to every 75 000 In every case the interests of the Maritime provinces are nearly identical, and there is scarcely an important question that can come up in which Lower Canada would not be with us Again there is protection in the fact that the number of representatives in the upper branch (of government) cannot be increased by the crown.

© Public Domain: Ed. Ajzenstat, J et al. Canada's Founding Debates (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999) p. 273.



#9

The New Dominion

Article written by the Edward Willis, editor of the Saint John Morning News, published in the newspaper on July 1, 1867.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Saint John Morning News
July 1, 1867

For good or for ill we this day enter upon a new and most important phase of our political existence. No longer isolated from contiguous [bordering] Sister Colonies, an intimate union with whom, a common origin, a community of interests, a substantial similarity of political institutions and political predilections [preferences] have combined to suggest, we start upon our new career with all the omens favorable to our success.

We cherish high expectations of future prosperity for the New Dominion. We anticipate a vast development of manufacturing industry, a wide extension for our shipping and commerce, and a rapid increase to our population. The resources of the Dominion [Canada] are varied and great; and the spirit of its people will rise to a level with their position and their opportunities. The Dominion will make for itself a name in the world worthy of the honored stock from which its people sprang. Its sons, always proud of their ancestry, will soon grow proud of their country

We do not suppose that we shall have nothing but sunshine along the pathway which we are about to traverse. Far from it. There will be pestilence [disease] sometimes to decimate [kill] our households. There will be blights [plant diseases] and mildews and army worms and kindred evils to famish our fields. There will be floods to drown our meadows and tempests to sink our ships. Cruel wars, let us hope they will always be distant from us, will interrupt the course of trade; and commercial revulsions will slacken the sinews [tendons] of labour. From the common lot of mortals there is no escape within or without the Union

....

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#1

The Fenian Invasions

Excerpt from a book written by former Canadian lieutenant colonel Robert Dallison entitled *Turning Back the Fenians*, published in 2006.



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For the pro-Confederates, the Fenian crisis was a blessing. Tilley and his party won a sweeping victory, taking all counties except Gloucester, Kent and Westmorland, areas where the Fenian scare had appeared remote. He won sixty percent of the vote and thirty-three seats to Smith's eight. Thanks to the intervention of the Fenians, New Brunswick was firmly set on the path to Confederation. Without New Brunswick, there would have been no Confederation, and without Confederation there would be no modern Canada. Canada is the real legacy of the Fenian crisis of 1866.

Quotation originally published in *Turning Back the Fenians: New Brunswick's Last Colonial Campaign* copyright © 2006 by Robert L. Dallison. Reprinted by permission of Goose Lane Editions.

#2

Factors influencing Confederation

Excerpt from a book written by historian Christopher Moore entitled *1867: How the Fathers made a Deal*, published in 1997.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

Confederation was not an urgent necessity in New Brunswick. None of the Maritime provinces faced the political crisis that drove the Canadians to seek a new arrangement, and the Quebec resolutions were a very “Canadian” proposal—from the “oily brains of Canadian politicians,” said Albert Smith. Maritimers had experienced years of frustrated bickering with the Canadians on many issues, and felt no incentive to solve Canadian problems. Confederation, with its promise to reorganize all the familiar political identities and commercial ties of each of the colonies, had come up suddenly in the Maritimes, offering little but the sheer ambition of the thing as an incentive.

Confederation’s weakness was compounded by a host of local irritants [annoyances]. Tilley’s government, in office a long time, had lost supporters on a series of controversies even before Confederation emerged. Tilley, an evangelical Protestant who had never cultivated [obtained] Catholic votes effectively, had recruited no Catholics to the Charlottetown and Quebec delegations, and the Acadian and Irish-Catholic minorities of the province regarded both him and Confederation warily [uneasily]. Saint John merchants and shippers, normally allies of Tilley, feared new tariffs and fiercer competition (with good reason), and argued that maintaining both federal and provincial governments would require increased taxation.

Moore, Christopher. *1867: How the Fathers made a Deal*. (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 1997) p. 176-177.

#3

Pressure to Join Confederation

Excerpt from a book written by historian P. B. Waite entitled *Confederation, 1854–1867*, published in 1972.



Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.

To imperial pressure New Brunswick was even less willing to submit than Prince Edward Island. Her loyalty to Great Britain was perhaps weaker than that of any other North American colony save [except] the western ones of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. New Brunswick was not prepared to knuckle under to anyone, least of all the Colonial Secretary. Corruptible she might be, but she would not be pushed. Not even newspapers sympathetic to Confederation were prepared to tolerate the possibility that Confederation be imposed upon New Brunswick by the Canadians and the Colonial Office.

Waite, P. B. *Confederation, 1854–1867* (Toronto: Holt, Rinehart and Winston of Canada, 1972) p. 271.