

New Brunswick – Viewpoints

Drawn from R.D. Francis, R. Jones & D.B. Smith, *Origins: Canadian History to Confederation* (Holt, 1988); H.H. Herstein, L.J. Hughes & R.C. Kirbyson, *Challenge and Survival: The History of Canada* (Prentice, 1970) and P.B. Waite, *Confederation, 1854-1867* (Holt, 1972).

1. Marching song of the Fenian Brotherhood

(From sometime in the 1860s)

The group, formed in the United States in 1859, was dedicated to fighting for the independence of Ireland.

We are the Fenian Brotherhood,
skilled in the art of war,
And we're going to fight for Ireland,
the land that we adore,
Many battles have we won, along with
the boys in blue,
And we'll go and capture Canada for
we've got nothing else to do.

2. On nationhood

(*St. John Morning News*, 2 June 1858)

The experience of history tells us that Colonies cannot be Colonies forever; and Canada in time will assume that character among the Nations of the world which her position, her wealth, and her intelligence will entitle her to.

3. On Union and the Intercolonial Railway

(*Saint John-Morning News*, 25 August 1858)

We regard the building of the inter-Colonial Railroad to be an absolute condition [of British North American union]—for there can be no union of feeling and sentiment, or harmony of understanding and action, while such physical difficulties are geographically described, stand in the way of the people of Canada West and those of Nova Scotia, separated by a distance of 800 miles, and who can only communicate with one another through American territory.

4. Britain's view of British North America

(*St. John Morning Telegraph*, 12 September 1864)

(T)he Mother Country [Great Britain] is becoming tired of her Colonial dependencies. This is undoubtedly the prevailing sentiment among the English Statesmen. . . . It does not pay at present to retain the British North American Colonies. . . . Why, then, should the British take any special interest in our welfare? Blood goes for nothing these days, for Anglo-Saxon blood is everywhere. Commerce is everything—and everything must succumb to commercial calculations.

We consider, then, that the time is near at hand when we shall be told to shift for ourselves; and the American difficulty, if we are not greatly mistaken, has brought the time considerably nearer to our doors than it otherwise would be.