

Newfoundland – Viewpoints

Drawn from P.B. Waite, *Confederation, 1854-1867* (Holt, 1972) and P.B. Waite, *The Life and Times of Confederation, 1864-1867: Politics, Newspapers and the Union of British North America* (University of Toronto Press, 1962).

1. Anti-Union

(St. John's *Patriot*, 29 November 1864)

We have no faith in a political union with Canada at all. We deem it—"Better to endure the ills we have, than flee to others that we know not of."

2. Complexity of Confederation

(St. John's *Patriot*, 6 December 1864)

Nor can we duly comprehend the magnitude of being the contemptible fag-end of such a compact. . . . This Federal scheme is an after-thought of the Canadians. We cannot deny that it is a brilliant thing on paper—this Confederation this Great United British America, which shall reach from "Newfoundland to the Rocky Mountains" but its brilliancy does not dazzle us as to the duties which must necessarily fall to our share. . . . That TAXATION for all local purposes will be resorted to, is as plain as ABC.

3. The need for change

(St. John's *Newfoundlander*, 5 January 1865)

If any of the Provinces more than another should seek a change, it is this. We do not mean to assert that we should adopt a change blindly, but unlike our Sister Colonies, our circumstances—the condition of our Trade—the depressed state of our people, demand a change, even if Confederation had never been proposed.

4. Caution

(Harbour Grace *Standard*, 7 December 1864)

Confederation of the British North American Colonies seems to be the all-absorbing question just at present. . . . This is certainly a matter of vital importance to this country, and should be approached with the greatest caution by the people of Newfoundland.