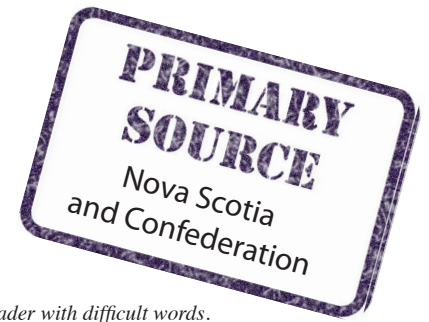


#1

The Colonial Convention

Excerpt from an article written by Jonathan McCully, published in the Morning Chronicle, a Halifax newspaper on September 10, 1864.



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

The Morning Chronicle
September 10, 1864

... That the sisterhood of the Provinces will form themselves into a great nation, is merely a question of time—that they have all the elements of making a great nation, admits of no question at all. The statement and public writers of Great Britain [people in Britain] are constantly urging upon us the necessity of a Union of some kind, which would greatly lessen [reduce] the charges upon the Imperial treasury [Britain would spend less on the colonies], as every part of their civil list [government employees] would then have to be paid by the Colonists [peoples from the British North American colonies] themselves, and as they would have to provide for the maintenance of their own military and naval forces. England, evidently, is not willing that we should remain much longer as we are. We, ourselves, begin to see that we must change our condition. We discern [recognize] the necessity for Union in a thousand forms; we see it in the want of uniformity in our tariffs [equal taxes]; in our customs regulations; in our currency

... If the Maritime Provinces, instead of uniting legislatively [through laws], adopt the Canadian project of a confederation, either as one legislative body [one government who makes laws] or as at present, three—and it is said the Canadians are agreed as to either mode— but allowing the whole three the status and representation of one [the united provinces will act like a single nation]— in either case the public debts, I apprehend [understand], are to be shouldered [taken on] by the federal government, and consolidated [combined with the other colonies' debts], and the several governments to give up that portion of their respective revenues derivable from customs and excise [colonies will share any money they make], reserving [not including], however, their crown lands, mines and minerals—in other words, the casual and territorial revenues—for local purposes

"The Colonial convention," Halifax Morning Chronicle, September 10, 1864, p. 2. © Public Domain | Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-7133-e.html> (Accessed March 24, 2012)



#2

Speech by Charles Tupper

Excerpt from a speech given by the Premier of Nova Scotia, Sir Charles Tupper, to Maritime delegates at a banquet held during the Quebec Conference on October 27, 1864.



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

Charles Tupper
October 27, 1864

... When you look at these facts, you will easily understand that the confederation which shall unite the British American Colonies, which will give a common aim, and united by a common bond the whole people, will tend to enhance (improve) their credit—to place them upon the (financial) exchanges of the world in a far better position than we can hope in our present divided state. I fail myself to understand how the commercial union (trading tariff-free between colonies), so ably referred to by your chairman, is ever to be realized, except in connection with a political union (a commercial union won't work unless the colonies are joined together politically).

Saunders, E. M. (Edward Manning), Tupper, Charles, Sir. The life and letters of the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Tupper (London: Cassell 1867) MAR-CXML © Public Domain.



#3

The botheration scheme

Excerpt from a letter written by Joseph Howe that was published anonymously in the Halifax Morning Chronicle on January 11, 1865.



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

The Halifax Morning Chronicle January 11, 1865

Before deciding to hand over to the Canadians the patronage [ability to rule] and revenues of Nova Scotia, let us enquire [investigate] whether there is anything in our present condition to compel us [force us] to make this transfer

At this hour our Legislative Councillors, our Judges, and all our public officers, are appointed by our own Government, resting upon the confidence of a clear majority of our own Parliament freely chosen by our own people [Nova Scotia has responsible government]. If this power were hereafter to be exercised by the nineteen members that we are asked to send to Ottawa [the number of politicians who would represent Nova Scotia as Members of Parliament in Ottawa], they would be but a minority of the fifty-five [number of men in the Assembly in Nova Scotia] who now possess it

"The Colonial convention," Halifax Morning Chronicle, September 10, 1864, p. 2. © Public Domain | Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-7133-e.html> (Accessed March 24, 2012)



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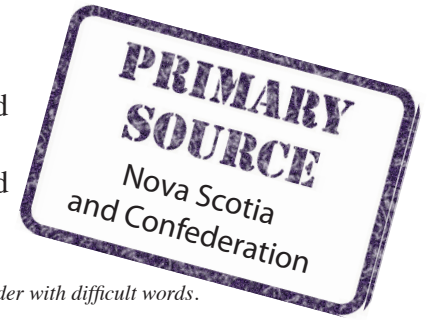
Saunders, E. M. (Edward Manning), Tupper, Charles, Sir. The life and letters of the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Tupper (London: Cassell 1867) MAR-CXML © Public Domain.



#5

Letter to the Earl of Carnarvon

Excerpt from a letter written by Joseph Howe, William Annand and Hugh McDonald to the Earl of Carnarvon, the British secretary of state for the colonies on January 19, 1867. This letter was later read to the British parliament on February 8, 1867.



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

January 19, 1867

Sir,

When representation is to be divided by their Quebec scheme they claim that it shall be adjusted by population (the number of Members of Parliament from each province is determined by the population of the province). When money is to be expended (spent) upon a national work (a national project such as a railway), they adopt a different rule While the advantages of this work were all in favour of Canada, her public men drove with the Maritime Provinces a bargain so hard as to be eminently (exceedingly) characteristic. The share which Canada should have assumed (the amount paid), taking population as the basis of this expenditure, was about six-sevenths of the whole (cost of the railway). She would only consent to provide for five-twelfths, and our Delegates were compelled to assume the other seven (pay more than their share of the total cost), or permit the project to be again wrecked by the selfishness and injustice of those with whom they had to deal

... The Intercolonial railway will have its advantages as a means of communication between all the Provinces, but those upon the seaboard (the Eastern coast) have grown and thriven (done well) without it and they can live and thrive without it still. In peace they have means of communication with all the world, and in war they can concentrate all their forces by means of the roads they have, and under any circumstances expect no help from Canada. So long as she is content to be frozen up for half the year, or to be dependent upon a foreign Government for a passage to the sea for her products and her people, the Nova Scotians are content to forego (forget) their share of the advantages of the Intercolonial road til it can be constructed on fair and honourable terms

(Signed)

J. Howe, W. Annand, and H. McDonald

Canada in the Making, produced by Canadiana.org
<http://www.canadiana.org/view?cihm=04679&seq=0001> (Accessed March 24, 2012)



#6

I am in favour of Union...

Excerpt from an article published in the Pictou Colonial Standard, a Nova Scotia newspaper on July 2, 1867.



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

The Pictou Colonial Standard July 2, 1867

... I am in favor of Union, because I wish to remain a loyal subject of Queen Victoria; because it will cement [united] more closely these Colonies and the Mother Country; because England desired it in order to consolidate [reinforce] our strength; because it will ensure us against aggression, or if we should be attacked, it will enable us to show a stronger front to the enemy; because it will promote the construction of our great public works, and in the end bring the commerce of the East across this American Continent; because it will give increased prosperity to every trade and occupation, and secure for our children and their children a home worth living in, and one to be proud of ...

... These are some of the reasons why I support Confederation When I look round me for objections I find only falsehood [lies] and abuse; when I look at the objectors; I see only opponents of all that is selfish, unprincipled, vindictive [seeking revenge], and disloyal. If I look abroad I find every enemy of British institutions, every public knave [dishonest] and reputed scoundrel [evil person] on either continent, a fool-mouthed opponent of this scheme of Union. If I look at home, I see the vilest [wicked] means used by unscrupulous [not honest] people to inflame [provoke] the passions and prejudices of the ignorant.

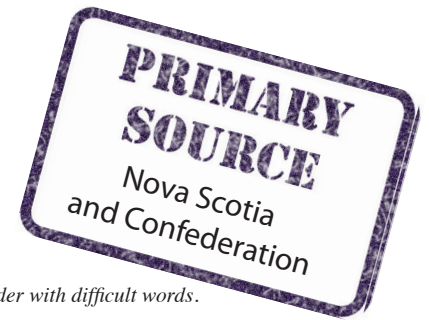
"The 1st of July," Pictou Colonial Standard (Nova Scotia), July 2, 1867, p. 2. © Public Domain | Library and Archives Canada
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-7137-e.html> (Accessed March 24, 2012)



#7

Married, born, died

Excerpt from an article published in the Eastern Chronicle and Pictou County Advocate in Nova Scotia on July 3, 1867 two days after Confederation.



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

Married:

On Monday morning last, at Ottawa C.E., by the British Parliament ... the young and fair Nova Scotia and "big brother" Canada. Contrary to all the principles of Liberty, the young lady was forced into what her friends consider to be an unhappy union. She was beautiful and rich; her suitor was old, crabbed and almost bankrupt—constantly given to harboring (keeping) persons obnoxious to Mrs. Britannia (Great Britain), and frequently breaking out into fits of rebellious rage. As the match is considered to be very inauspicious (not favourable) one for the fair and blushing bride, her friends, who are numerous, powerful, and well disciplined, intend shortly to take prompt and decided steps to procure (obtain) a divorce.

Born:

On Monday morning last, at 12 (...) a.m., (premature) the Dominion of Canada—illegitimate (not authorized by law). This prodigy (person with exceptional abilities) is known as the infant monster Confederation It is feared it will not live long, as it even now in a precarious (delicate) state of health, and in danger of being devoured (eaten) by some cannibalistic animals owned by Uncle Sam (the United States). The head—Nova Scotia—is the only part of the body that exhibits real signs of vitality (life); and strange to say, several eminent (important)

Doctors have given it as their opinion that the head must and will be separated from the remainder of the skeleton, in which case the former will grow and flourish into a healthy man, and prove a worthy descendant of Mrs. Britannia.

Died:

At 12 o'clock midnight, on Sunday, the 30th day of June, John Bluenose (nickname for Nova Scotians), aged 118 years on the 21st day of that month. During a long and prosperous life, the deceased enjoyed much personal respect. His vast resources and means of accumulating (collecting) wealth had unfortunately, during the last few years, attracted the envy of corrupt men in the Northern Hemisphere. His premature (early) and untimely death, it is said, has been hastened (sped up) by some of his own children—Doctor "Poison-Bag" (Charles Tupper) and three members of the legal profession His remains have been conveyed (moved) to Canada for interment (burial), whither also his vast wealth had been surreptitiously (taken in a unauthorized way) transferred by his supposed murderers

"Married," "Born," "Died," Eastern Chronicle and Pictou County Advocate (Nova Scotia), July 3, 1867, p. 3. © Public Domain | Library and Archives Canada



#8

The new Dominion

Newspaper editorial published in the Halifax Evening Express on July 3, 1867, two days after Confederation.



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

The Halifax Evening Press July 3, 1867

A few days ago we were a Province with a population, all told, barely equal to that of a second rate European city. We had the paraphernalia [structure] of Responsible Government, we were free as the air we breathed, our land had lying under it resources whose value is to be counted in tens of millions. With a bracing [fresh] climate, a fertile soil, girdled [circled] almost by a sea teeming [full] with inexhaustible [incapable of being used up] treasure, with a geographical position equal to that of New York or Liverpool, with everything, indeed, but one, to give us place, and name, and influence, and prosperity; the absence of that one thing neutralized [made ineffective] all the others. We had not room, or means enough, or men enough, to utilize and make best of these splendid resources

... We have chosen the better and the wiser course Nova Scotia is, indeed, to-day both a Province and an integral [important] portion of a Dominion, with room and verge [border] enough for the energy and enterprise [project] of 150 millions of human beings, with a territory resting upon two oceans, lying in the great highway of the commerce, both of the east and of the west, covering at least one million of square miles of land, capable of successful cultivation [improvement]

... Nova Scotia is no longer a petty [unimportant] Province, nor Halifax a petty town, nor what we called towns, small villages, whose names were unknown, beyond the circumference [border] of the Province itself. The day of small things has passed away, and henceforth we will have our names inscribed [written] among the nations of the Western World.

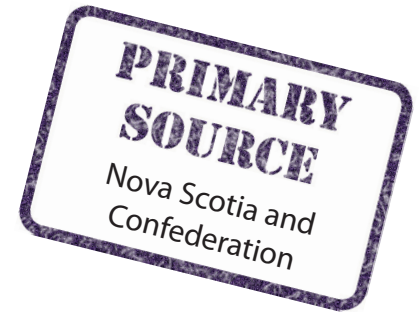
"The new dominion," Halifax Evening Express, July 3, 1867, p. 2. © Public Domain | Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-7142-e.html> (Accessed March 24, 2012)



#9

Cross roads

Cartoon, printed in a newspaper in Nova Scotia in 1868.



CROSS ROADS.

SHALL WE GO TO WASHINGTON FIRST, OR HOWIE?

Cartoon Tips:

- The woman in the middle is Nova Scotia, Charles Tupper is the man on the left and Joseph Howe sits in the background.
- “Acadia” is written on the bottom of Nova Scotia’s dress.
- The sign on the left says “to Ottawa” while the sign on the right says Washington, Wall Street.
- The container on the left has the words “lighter taxes, British supremacy,” and “intercolonial railway.”
- The path to Washington is marked with “taxes \$460 000 000, repudiation [rejection], gold ring, radical adventures, \$\$\$\$\$, Bowie knives” and “scallywags” (a white southerner who supported reconstruction after the Civil War).

Bengough, John Wilson, April 8, 1882. ARCH Rare NC1445 B4 fol. 1 Library and Archives Canada.

#1

Building the New Nation

Excerpt from an article published as part of the History of Canada Online, an online encyclopedia.



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

The first major order of business after all the fireworks had been fired off announcing the birth of the new Dominion on July 1, 1867 was to deal with Nova Scotia. After initially agreeing to join the new nation, Canada's east-ern-most province was having second thoughts.

Led by journalist Joseph Howe, who wrote the Botheration Letters against Confederation, Nova Scotians were beginning to regret their decision. They believed that Charles Tupper had sold the province out for a mere 80 cents per capita [per person] which was the subsidy [aid] agreed upon. Further, they felt that federal tariffs [taxes] would decimate their lucrative trade with New England. Howe had already tried, unsuccessfully, to have Britain to rescind [cancel] the deal during the final London Conference. In the first federal election a scant ten weeks after the Confederation celebrations, Howe's separatist Nova Scotia Party took 18 out of 19 of the province's seats. In the following year's provincial election, they kicked pro-confederate premier Charles Tupper out of office, taking 36 of 38 seats to become the official government. And that government wanted out of Confederation.

"Building the New Nation" History of Canada Online
http://canadachannel.ca/HCO/index.php/4._Building_the_New_Nation (Accessed March 28, 2012)
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