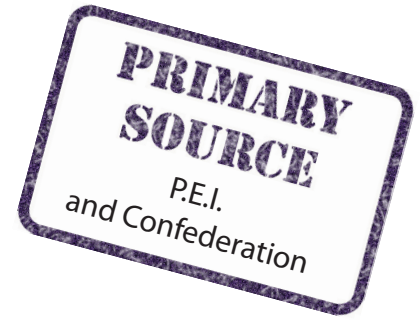


#1

# It is all very beautiful in theory...

Excerpt from an article in *The Protestant*, a Charlottetown 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 Protestant**  
**September 10, 1864**

## The pros and cons of federation

It is all very beautiful in theory to expatiate [speak in detail] on the benefits of Colonial Federation [Confederation] .... This is all sublime [excellent] and pleasing around a festive board; but of very little practical advantage to the people of our Island. We are part and parcel now of a greater nationality than can be scared up by even four millions of people for many long day, we enjoy the protection of the government of that nation. Railway communication will not likely ever come to our shores, and we have nothing worth sending to the top of Lake Superior; but as regards our lawyers and statesmen, we believe it would do some of them a vast of good to have an opportunity to know their own littleness, so far as this last consideration is concerned we go in heartily for a Confederation.

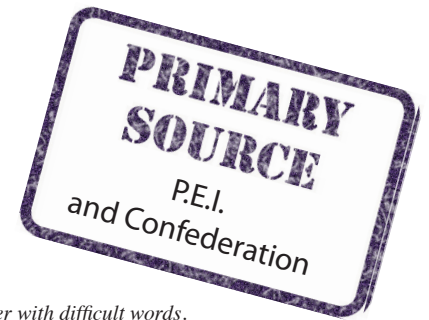
“The pros and cons of federation,” *The Protestant* (Charlottetown) September 10, 1864 © Public Domain. | Library and Archives Canada [http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/ic/can\\_digital\\_collections/charlottetown/documents/pros.html](http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/ic/can_digital_collections/charlottetown/documents/pros.html) (Accessed August 1, 2011).



#2

## The union scheme

Excerpt from an article in The Herald, a Charlottetown newspaper on October 12, 1864 after the end of the Quebec Conference.



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

The Herald  
October 12, 1864

### The Union scheme

What the result of the Quebec Convention may be, is at present difficult to divine [predict]; but whatever may result there from, this much is certain, that the whole Delegation affair will cost this Island a very considerable sum of money. We learn that our Delegates receive eight dollars per day each as remuneration [compensation] for their services, besides their travelling charges and other incidental expenses. And for what purpose is all this expense incurred? Simply for the consummation [fulfillment] of an Union which must necessarily entail heavy taxation upon the already impoverished people of this Island ...

Thus, it will be seen, that if this form of Union be carried out, the people of this Colony, besides having to support a Local Legislature and all the paraphernalia [costs] of a Local Government ... will have to pay their own Governor and contribute their proportion towards the support of the General [Federal] Government, the salary of the Governor General and a foreign diplomacy. All the revenue which is now annually collected would be placed at the disposal of the General Government. In order to show our readers what portion of the general revenue this island would receive, we shall quote from the Courier du Canada ...—a Quebec paper which generally expresses the real sentiments of the Canadian Ministry ... the writer remarks; "... a part of the public revenue might be distributed to each Colony for this purpose, in proportion to its population."

From this it can readily be seen what share of the general revenue this island, with a population of about 80,000, would receive from the Federal Government, which would represent a population of nearly 4,000,000 ...

"The Union scheme," The Herald (Charlottetown), October 12, 1864.

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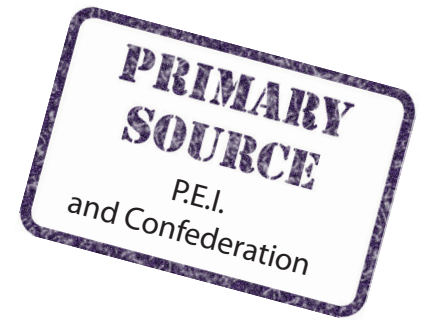
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-7154-e.html> (Accessed August 1, 2011).



#3

## Speech by George Howlan

Excerpt from a speech given by politician George Howlan to the Prince Edward Island House of Assembly on March 28, 1865.



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

George Howlan to the House of Assembly  
March 28, 1865

In considering the question of Confederation, we ought to view it not as it would affect us at present, but as it would probably operate upon the interests of this colony in all time to come ....

Representation by population might be very well for Canada herself, but in a general union of the colonies it would operate injuriously (harmful) for the Maritime provinces, as they could not expect to protect their interests when they would have to content with 100 of a clear majority over their own representation ....

It is well enough for those to go into Confederation who have not been able to manage their own affairs, but for us to do so in the prosperous state of our revenue would be but committing political suicide. Some of the delegates, however, inform us that we may obtain 250,000 pounds to buy proprietary lands (lands owned by absentee landlords). There is nothing in the report to this effect; all that I see promised is interest for a certain sum ....

Their (delegates for Prince Edward Island at the Conferences) first object ought to have been to get a settlement of our land question—the only question which is a grievance in the colony—and then they might have come with some show of reason and asked us to go into Confederation. But they ask us to give up our constitution—for what? Simply the glory of belonging to a country with four millions of people ...?

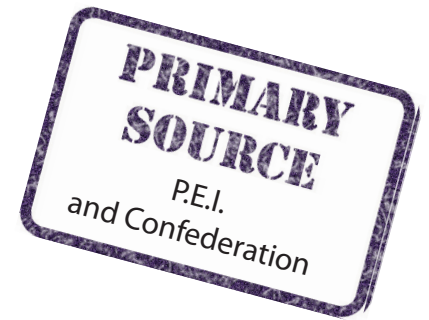
Speech by George Howlan 1865, as quoted in Ed. Ajzenstat, J et al. *Canada's Founding Debates*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999. Pg. 323-324.



#4

## Speech by George Coles

Excerpt from a speech given by George Coles, Leader of the Official Opposition in the House of Assembly, to the House of Assembly on March 31, 1865.



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

### George Coles to the House of Assembly March 31, 1865

Here we may see the pitiable (deserving of pity) condition to which this island would be reduced under Confederation—our revenues taken away, scarcely (not) enough allowed us to work the machinery of (operate) the local government, and should more money be required when our population increased it would have to be raised by direct taxation. The people of this colony were battling for years to gain responsible government, and since obtained I believe it has given general satisfaction. But, sir, were we to adopt this report (the Québec Resolutions), it would deprive us of our constitution and leave us no corresponding benefit in return. It is urged that, as a compensation for our loss, we would become part of a great union that, in time, would form a mighty nation. But I ask what greater nationality can we enjoy than that with which it is our pride and privileges at present to be connected? What greater flag can wave over us than the time-honoured banner of Old England ...?

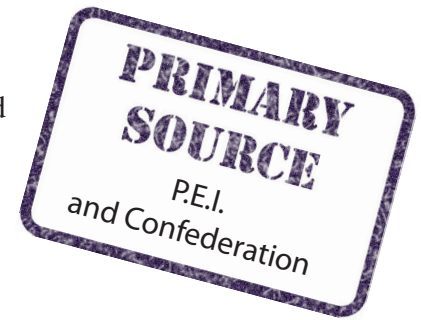
Speech by George Coles 1865, as quoted in Ed. Ajzenstat, J et al. Canada's Founding Debates. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999. Pg. 323-324.



#5

## Speech by Edward Whelan

Excerpt of a speech given by Edward Whelan to the Prince Edward Island House of Assembly in 1866.



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

### Edward Whelan to the House of Assembly 1866

We are not seeking a separation from Great Britain, but to combine our strength, by which we may be able to resist aggression, whether from Fenianism (the Fenians) or from any other quarter. Last year, we were told that the advocacy of this question was premature (early), because there was not the slightest probability of an interruption of the friendly relations existing between Great Britain and the United States on account of Fenian organization; but now we know as to render it necessary, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to take extraordinary precautions against its aggression ....

Prince Edward Island is not safe while these marauders (raiders) threaten the invasion of the other Provinces .... It is scarcely necessary to observe that the United States have no love for Great Britain—no desire to see these Colonies remain a part of the British Dominions. And they would rather that they should remain separated and isolated, than be consolidated in power by Confederation, so that, one by one, they might fall an easy prey whenever they (the United States) should choose to set about their absorption (take them over) ....

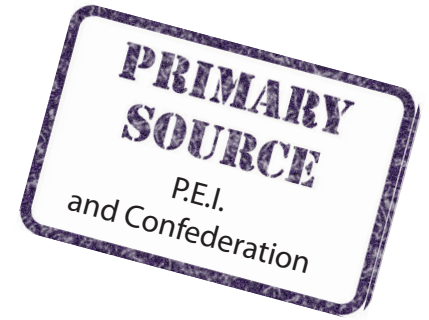
Bolger, Francis. Prince Edward Island and Confederation 1863-1873 (Canada: St. Dunstan's University Press, 1964) p. 142.



#6

# Speech by George Beer

Excerpt from a speech given by George Beer to the Legislative Council of Prince Edward Island on May 5, 1866.



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

## George Beer to the Legislative Council May 5, 1866

For a number of years we have been striving to free the country from the influence of absentee proprietors (landlords), and have partially succeeded. Our prospects have become brighter—prosperity appears to have set in—and we hope soon to get the estate of the last proprietor purchased. The evils of absentee proprietorship are acknowledged everywhere. Wherever it prevails, the country is drained of its natural resources, and the inhabitants, feeling their dependent position, become disheartened and retrograde (going backward) rather than improve.

Let the proposed Confederation be consummated (brought to completion) and the now beautiful and flourishing Island of Prince Edward will be virtually sold to a large, extravagant, and absentee proprietor named Canada, who will graciously allow us to expend (spend) about one half of our earnings, but will exact from us the other half, to be expended (spent) a thousand miles away ....

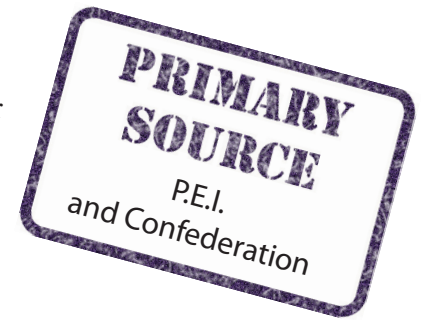
Speech by George Beer 1866, as quoted in Ed. Ajzenstat, J et al. *Canada's Founding Debates* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999) p., 323-324.



#7

## The bribe

Excerpt from an article printed in The Herald, a Halifax newspaper on November 14, 1866. The article begins with a copy of a letter written by Charles Tupper, a Nova Scotian politician, and S.L. Tilley, a politician from New Brunswick.



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

**The Herald**  
**November 14, 1866**

(COPY) Therefore Resolved—That, in case the Legislature of the Island should authorize the appointment of Delegates to act in conjunction with those from the other Provinces, in arranging a plan of co-operation [Confederation], prior to the meeting of the Imperial [British] Parliament, the delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are hereby pledged to support the policy of providing such an amount as may be necessary for the purchase of the proprietary rights [land from absentee landlords], but not to exceed \$800,000.

(Signed)  
Charles Tupper & S. L. Tilley

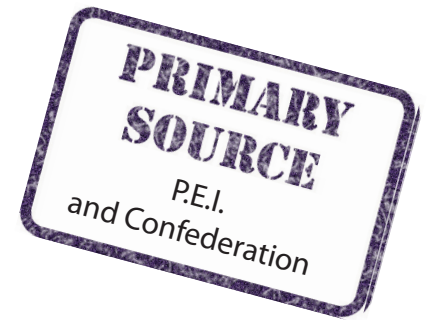
We have no hesitation in expressing our belief that if the offer were assented [agreed] to by Canada and the money tendered [given] to this Island as the price of its adhesion [joining] to Confederation, a majority might be found to accept it; and should Her Majesty's Government be anxious for all those Provinces to form themselves into a Confederacy, we have no doubt the \$800,000, and even a larger sum, will yet be offered to smooth the difficulties in the way of an harmonious [happy] union.

"The bribe" knocked into a cocked hat," The Herald (Charlottetown), November 14, 1866. © Public Domain | Library and Archives Canada  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-7155-e.html> (Accessed August 1, 2011).

#8

## Letter to Lord Dufferin

Excerpt from a letter written by William Robinson, Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island to Lord Dufferin, the Governor-General of Canada, on November 16, 1872.



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

November 16, 1872

Sir,

Looking at the question fairly in the face, my Ministers see that there are only two courses open to them: either they must impose (assign) heavy additions to taxes on the people (and this, while it would be exceedingly unpopular would not get over the difficulty of exchange), or seek admission into the Union, provided that Canada would thereupon make our Railway debt her own. One or the other course will have to be adopted at the next session of Local Parliament. Under these circumstances I shall feel greatly obliged if your Excellency will ascertain (find out) for me whether Canada will be prepared to adhere (stick to) to the offer which she made to us in 1869 (\$800 000 to buy up the absentee landlords' land), and assume our Railway liabilities in addition, in the event of Prince Edward Island desiring admission into the Union.

(Signed)

W. Robinson

Bolger, Francis. Prince Edward Island and Confederation 1863-1873. Canada: St. Dunstan's University Press, 1964. Pg. 273.

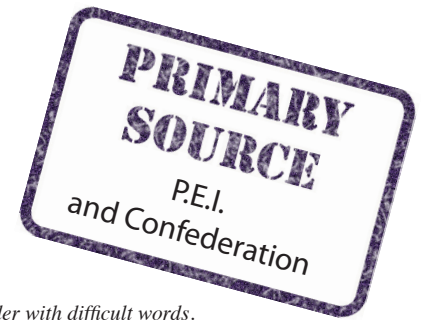




#9

## The latest terms

Excerpt from an article printed in The Patriot, a Prince Edward Island newspaper, on May 22, 1873.



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

**The Patriot**  
**May 22, 1873**

... We are glad, for the sake of the future, peace and contentment of the Colony, that every expedient [way of obtaining something] has been exhausted to secure the best Terms of Union for the Island ....

If we understood Mr. Pope, on Tuesday night, they will come short of an additional \$33,000. It seems Messrs. Pope, Haviland and Howlan [Prince Edward Island politicians] have procured [obtained] an increase of \$5 per head to the debt with which the Island is permitted to enter the Union ....

On this understanding, the Committee of Council desire to ascertain from the General Government of the Dominion [Canadian government] whether they would concede [give] to Prince Edward Island, the following terms of Confederation IN ADDITION to the proposals contained in what is popularly known as the Better Terms offered in 1869.

First. An annual allowance of \$5000 in addition to the subsidy proposed to be granted by the better terms for the expenses of the Local Government and Legislature.

Second. The Dominion to take the Prince Edward Island Railway, and assume its debt not exceeding \$3,250,000.

Third. Take the new Law Courts and Post Office Building at cost, say \$69,000.

Fourth. Take the new Steam Dredge Boat under contract to be completed in the spring, at cost say \$22,000.

Fifth. Allow the Prince Edward Island Local Government to retain any sum which may be awarded by the Fishery Commission under the Washington Treaty, as an equivalent for surrendering the Fisheries of the Colony.

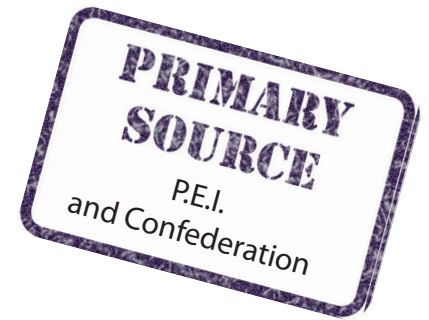
"The latest terms," The Patriot (Prince Edward Island), May 22, 1873. © Public Domain | Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collections-canada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-7156-e.html> (Accessed March 24, 2012)



# #10

## The new political situation

This excerpt is from an article in the newspaper, *The Patriot*, on July 3, 1873.



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

**The Patriot**  
**July 3, 1873**

After a political existence of about a century's duration as a separate dependency of the British Empire, the future destiny of the people of this Island is now linked with that of the Confederate Provinces of British America ...

In the Dominion two great burdens will be lifted from our shoulders. The leasehold system of land tenure, which operated as a drag on our prosperity since the first British emigrant landed on our shores, and which the Royal Land Commissioners in their Report aptly designated [correctly called] as the "poisoned garment" that stunted our growth, and doomed us to a feeble [weak] and sickly existence—will, we trust be for ever abolished. The Railway debt, incurred either by recklessness or design on the part of the promoters of that enterprise, will no longer give us any uneasiness, being provided for out of the General Revenue of the Dominion. In addition to these we may class the advantages of free trade with a country whose [natural] resources are of almost boundless extent and variety [unlimited in amount and variety], and are being developed and turned to account by an energetic and enterprising race of men who are our kindred [related] by blood, and by every tie that binds together a nation.

"Dominion Day," *The Patriot* (Prince Edward Island), July 3, 1873.

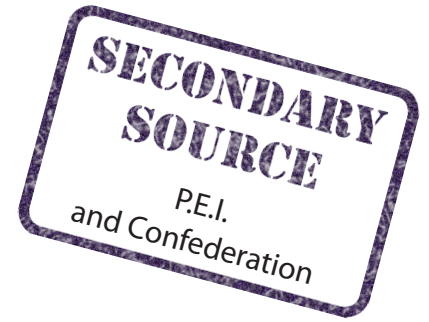
© Public Domain | Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-7158-e.html> (Accessed August 1, 2011).



# #1

## Opinions of Confederation after the Québec Conferences

Excerpt from a book written by historian Francis Bolger entitled Prince Edward Island and Confederation 1863–1873, published in 1964.



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

The instability of the Island's financial security was reflected in still another area. The government was obliged to purchase a right of way for the railway and to pay the property owners incidental land damage claims. The government secured the necessary funds by the issue of debentures [unsecured loans] redeemable in ten years. In the autumn of 1872 the government needed some \$50,000 to meet immediate land damage claims. The Bank of Prince Edward Island would loan only \$10,000 and the Union Bank some \$5,000 .... It was becoming apparent [evident] that the Island was in dire financial straits.

The government and the banks realized that steps would have to be taken immediately to avoid the complete collapse of the Island's economy. Many of the directors of the Island banks advised Premier Haythorne that Confederation might be the only reasonable solution, if the Dominion would agree to assume the railway debt ....

Bolger, Francis W.P. Prince Edward Island and Confederation 1863-1873 (Canada: St. Dunstan's University Press, 1964) p. 234.

# #2

## Better terms for Prince Edward Island

Excerpt from a book written by historians David Weale and Harry Baglole entitled *The Island and Confederation: The End of an Era*, published in 1973.



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

The longer the Island stayed out of Confederation the more money it was offered to go in; and the terms which were finally received by the Island in 1873 were substantially better than those which had been offered in 1864. Consequently, it was possible for the Islanders to enter Confederation thinking of themselves as exceptionally adroit [skilled] and successful bargainers. Even some of the previously rabid [fanatical] anti-Confederates assumed this attitude, and began to speak as though the events of 1873 had taken place in exact accordance with their long-range plans ....

Although the discussion of financial arrangements was an important part of the Confederation dispute it is, nonetheless, a gross [large] over-simplification of the matter to picture the Islanders as a canny [careful] and calculating lot whose only concern was to coax as much money as possible out of the Canadian treasury ....

Confederation seemed like a “leap in the dark” and many of the residents were uncomfortably aware that the Island just would not be the same afterwards. These fears and misgivings had little to do with the economic aspects of the Union ....

Weale, D and Harry Baglole. *The Island and Confederation: The End of an Era*. (Summerside, PEI: Williams & Crue Ltd, 1973) p. 123-125.