



South Simcoe News.

BRADFORD:

Thursday, July 4, 1867.

CONFEDERATION ACCOMPLISHED.

The long anticipated commencement of our national existence as the Dominion of Canada is at length realized. Henceforward the four millions of British subjects upon this continent will exist but as one people. We begin our new era of history under most auspicious circumstances. The causes that provoked so much strife and bitterness between us and our sister provinces are at length happily removed; the objects for which as a people, we have so long struggled have been in the main effectually secured, and the calamities that loomed so ominously in the future have vanished altogether from the political horizon. Our future prospects, as far as they are within the scope of human judgment, are certainly most encouraging. We started with a territory larger than the combined area of Great Britain and Ireland, France, Greece, Denmark and Switzerland, and in a few years, when we have taken in the other Maritime Provinces and the North-west, our Dominion stretching from ocean to ocean will be the largest state upon the American continent.

Our population is now larger than that of many important European states, and at its present rapid rate of increase must ere long swell to immense proportions, people the fertile fields of the central region with teeming millions and extend the zone of civilization from Labrador beyond the Rocky Mountains.

Our position as an agricultural, commercial and manufacturing people, is one of which we may well be proud. With but one exception we raise more grain, roots, &c., in proportion to our population, than is raised in the neighboring States, and in the amount of live stock are almost equal. Our realized wealth will compare favorably with that of any young country of similar population. In the lumber and tonnage of our mercantile ships which we build and own, we take rank as the fourth maritime power in the world. The value and extent of our minerals, forests and fisheries are almost beyond computation. Our trade and revenue are even now greater than were those of the United States ten years after Great Britain acknowledged their independence. In public works and public entertainments, we are far in advance of many older and wealthier states. The available strength of our volunteer and militia force foots up to over half a million; and last, but not least, we have the greatest amount of civil and religious freedom compatible with good government; are eminently prosperous in our worldly affairs, and have every guarantee of happiness than can be bestowed by general intelligence and industry, high morality and unwavering loyalty to our own government, our country, and our Queen.

Thus situated we receive the great change brought about by Confederation, and which is destined to exercise so important an influence of the future of the provinces it has bound together. We believe it is pregnant with great and permanent blessings and look forward with hope and confidence, Confederation day witnessed an outburst of universal rejoicing—the omen is a good one, and we doubt not but that the result will justify us in greeting with similar feelings every return of the occasion.