

Quebec and Ontario, and complained that the staple export of Nova Scotia, coal, was to be admitted duty free. He demanded that reciprocity should be established with respect to these two.

Mr. McDonald (Lunenburg) said that an opportunity should be given to every member from Nova Scotia to enter his protest against the additional burdens which were to be imposed upon them to an extent that no political advantages of Union could ever compensate. Already they had found a tax proposed on every poor man who took a newspaper for the information of this family; a stamp tax, an impost unknown to the Maritime Provinces up to this hour, and one which had cost England half this continent. (Hear, hear.) Mr. McDonald referred to other items, and hoped that full time would be given for discussion.

Hon. Mr. Tilley was most anxious for discussion, to afford him an opportunity of removing the erroneous impression which seemed to prevail with his friends opposite, as to the effect of the tariff on the Maritime Provinces, but that discussion should take place on the motion for concurrence. He considered if it were necessary to increase the revenue, such increase should be effected rather by an imposition upon luxuries than upon articles of necessary consumption by the poor, such as flour or tea. The working of Confederation had not—he said it more in sorrow than in anger—been hitherto such as to strengthen the hands of the friends of Union. (Opposition cheers.)

Hon. Mr. Fisher regretted that the Government proposed to increase the duty on sugar, molasses, pork and tea in the Lower Provinces. These articles entered largely into the consumption of the people of those Provinces, and increased duties on them would be felt as extremely burdensome. He regretted for the sake of the Union that this measure was proposed, for it would tend to make the Union unpopular and the people discontented.

Mr. Jones (Halifax) asked if the large increase of so many necessary articles of consumption was calculated to increase the affection of the people of Nova Scotia for Union, or whether they were likely to approve the policy of Canadian statesmen, who imposed burdens upon the sister Provinces to provide for their own necessities. The effect of the measures of revenue, introduced two years ago, had been to concentrate the profits of the entire sugar trade of the country into the

[Mr. McLellan (Colchester)]

coffers of the two sugar refineries of Montreal with the consequent loss of a large amount of revenue. This was a consideration which had already been amply impressed upon the Government, and yet he found them proposing to perpetuate the inequitable system through the whole Dominion. This late hour, when the representatives of the Maritime Provinces, being compelled to leave on the following day, had been chosen by the Government to bring down such objectionable propositions in the hopes that they would escape the discussion, which had been vainly challenged earlier in the session. Without some renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, the people of Nova Scotia, oppressed by these new burdens, would be unable to exist, and to any enactment which in addition to the \$2 per barrel imposed upon their carriage of fish to America, would add the charge of another \$2 upon each barrel of pork they brought back from the Brazils, he declared that they would not submit. Under these considerations he ought not perhaps to regret the propositions of the Government, but he could not avoid remarking upon the course they had taken to avoid a full and fair discussion.

Hon. Mr. Rose pointed out that it was fair and necessary that increased revenue should be desired from the Maritime Provinces, because thus far the sum they had drawn from the Dominion largely exceeded the sum contributed by them. Of the whole estimated expenditures of sixteen millions this year, there would be expended in Ontario and Quebec, \$9,113,000; in Nova Scotia, \$2,257,000; in New Brunswick, \$1,150,000, with \$3,312,000 general expenditure, not specially applicable to any of the Provinces. If a *per capita* rate of expenditure was taken, it would be found that the expenditure in Ontario and Quebec this year would be \$4.70 per head; in Nova Scotia, \$7.87, and in New Brunswick, \$7.18. (Hear, hear). He thought these facts should have weight with honourable gentlemen from the Maritime Provinces; and, while regretting the necessity of having to allude for one moment to a question of sectional character, he asked the honourable gentlemen from the Maritime Provinces to take them into consideration in that fair, straightforward way which, as British subjects, he knew he could ask at their hands. (Hear, hear).

Hon. Mr. Howe said that Nova Scotia only got extra the sum necessary to make up its debt of eight millions, while the debt of Canada was not only up to the sixty-two millions provided for under the Union Act, but eighteen millions besides.