

delegates to the Quebec Conference, which had relation to the final Confederation of these Provinces. Having been Secretary of the Province, and having had charge of its financial affairs, it naturally fell to him to look after the financial interests of New Brunswick at that Conference. The Conference met and passed a variety of resolutions which formed the basis of Confederation, so far as New Brunswick to have 80c. per head of the population of 1861, which amounted to about \$201,000, and in addition, \$63,000 per year for ten years. The Conference closed; the Finance Minister returned to New Brunswick, and, with the view of preparing the people for the dissolution which was shortly to take place, he called public meetings in St. John, as well as in other parts of New Brunswick. He (Sir A. J. Smith) was one of those who opposed Confederation, as propounded at the Quebec Conference. The Finance Minister, at all these public meetings, strongly advised the people to accept the terms of the Conference. He told them he had obtained the most liberal terms for New Brunswick, and, had the people endorsed his action, and adopted his advice, all that the Province would have had in this Confederation would have been \$201,000, and \$63,000 for ten years.

MR. TILLEY: Where are the \$50,000 for the Government?

SIR A. J. SMITH said that was a supplementary allowance; there was nothing said about it at the Conference, or in the resolutions. All that the Finance Minister had to offer the people, and which he strongly urged them to accept, were the 80c. per head according to the census of 1861, which amounted to \$201,000, and the \$63,000 per year for ten years, and these amounts were to be in full satisfaction of any claim New Brunswick was to have on this Dominion with reference to its financial matters. Had the people accepted the advice of the Finance Minister, what would be the condition of New Brunswick now? Since then, New Brunswick has received, in addition to those terms, \$50,000 a year, 80c. per head of the population, until it reached

400,000, which, according to the last census, did give a considerable amount, \$150,000 compensation for the abolition of export duties—and had now a revenue of nearly half a million dollars derivable from the Dominion Treasury. He asked the Finance Minister where New Brunswick would have been had she accepted his proposition in 1864? She would have been in the lowest depths of financial despair. All she could do at present was barely to meet requirements of her Civil Government. It had been said, across the floor of this House, that he (Sir A. J. Smith) had changed his politics, and, from a Tory, had become a Liberal. He and the Finance Minister had been associated together for many years in the same Government; they were in perfect accord and sympathy, and were members of the first Liberal Government, in 1854, ever formed in New Brunswick, and, if there had been a change, it was the Finance Minister who had changed, who, for many years, had been a Liberal, and was now a Tory. What did the Finance Minister himself say in 1864, about the manner in which New Brunswick would be financially affected by joining Confederation? At this time, the tax per head in New Brunswick, Customs duties, for there were no Excise duties, was \$3.20. He told the people that, if they joined Confederation, their taxes would be diminished, and, instead of \$3.30, they would pay only \$2.75 per head for the next quarter of a century. His views were not adopted by the people, and he was defeated by an overwhelming majority, despite every means legitimate and illegitimate, which were used against the anti-Confederate party. The following year a dissolution was forced, and the Confederate party won the election. He would not repeat the causes of this change, because his hon. friend from Gloucester had put plainly before the House the agencies which had been resorted to to bring about the result. He (Sir A. Smith) alluded to those utterances of the Finance Minister to show that his judgment was not to be relied upon, that, when he assumed the rôle of prophet, his prophecies should be received with considerable allowance, that he had not a great prevision and forecast for the future, and it was impossible for him to