

April 30, 1874

Hon. Mr. BLAKE: And I'm not learning anything.

Mr. DOMVILLE: And you never will. (*Roars of laughter.*)

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: Do the people of New Brunswick live on molasses?

Mr. DOMVILLE: No, but I've been led to believe that those in Prince Edward Island live on codfish.

Someone here insinuated that Hon. Mr. Laird was a loose fish. (*Roars of laughter.*)

Mr. DOMVILLE said he had no doubt the Minister of Finance, after sleeping over this tariff, would conclude to take the tax off puddled bars, as he had removed it from pig iron. He was surprised that the Minister of Customs, who was an iron merchant and also interested in a nail factory, should aid in framing a tariff which would place a duty of only five per cent on manufactured iron, while the manufacturers of New Brunswick were compelled to pay the same on the raw material.

In concluding, it gave him great pleasure to find that the Ministry had consented in some measure, although not as fully as he could have wished, to meet the objections of the public and to bring in the amended tariff, and he trusted ere long he would come to the determination to increase the free list still further. (*Cheers.*)

UNIDENTIFIED LIBERAL SPEAKER: He firmly believed that the Government intended to do what was right and fair to this Dominion. The increase of taxation was a difficult subject to deal with, and while he admitted that it was open to gentlemen on the opposite side of the House to criticise freely both this and every other measure of the Government, as he supposed he would do himself were he in their places, yet he could not help thinking that from the present appearance of the finances of this country their criticism should be tempered with a great deal of moderation. He complimented the Minister of Finance upon the clear, explicit, and able statement he had made of the financial position of this country, from which he had himself been able to satisfy his own mind as to our condition.

In reply to the onslaught of the hon. member for Cumberland, he had to reply that he did not believe the people of the great Province of Ontario had any intention to impose upon the people of the smaller Provinces. (*Hear, hear.*) Let hon. gentlemen put the matter as they might, there was no denying that the smaller Provinces had been the cause of taxing the larger ones to an enormous extent. It might have been necessary to do so. It might not be a disadvantage to the larger Provinces in the long run, but at least it was not for the smaller Provinces to talk of sectionalism on the matter. (*Hear, hear.*)

He believed that the tariff proposed by the Government was a just and fair one, as discriminating between contending claims and interests; and he repudiated the idea that the financial statement of Mr. Cartwright would injure our credit in the mother country or any other part of the world. Capitalists did not refuse to credit honest men—(*cheers*)—men who were careful and truthful, and stated their position fairly and fearlessly. In conclusion, he said he considered that when the Government made provisions for the

appropriations of their predecessors there would be but little left for their own. (*Loud cheers.*)

Mr. WALKER said he differed from the hon. member for Cumberland (Hon. Mr. Tupper) in the opinion he expressed as to the motives which influenced the Government in bringing down the amendment to the tariff which they had done. He thought they deserved and would receive the commendation of the country for making the proposed changes in answer to the voice of those experienced in the trade and commerce of the country, who had given expression to the details of the tariff, without interfering with the principle laid down by the Government in its general scope.

He asked the indulgence of the House to allow him to correct a statement of the hon. member for Cumberland. That gentleman had, in a previous stage of this debate, said he knew that the present Government were in collusion with the Northern Pacific Railway of the United States, and that they jointly opposed the scheme for raising money in England by the delegation of Directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway, of which he was one. This he desired to give a distinct denial to. (*Cheers.*) He saw no sign of collusion directly or indirectly between the present Government and the Northern Pacific Railway. (*Hear, hear.*) The opposition which the delegation met with was organized by the Grand Trunk and carried on by them, their reason being that Sir Hugh Allan was the controlling spirit in the North Shore and Montreal Northern Colonization Railways, and that these lines would be made the eastern connection of the Pacific, to the exclusion of the Grand Trunk. (*Hear, hear.*) He would reserve his remarks on the tariff and the Government scheme for building the Pacific Railway till another occasion.

Mr. GILLMOR said that it had been stated that all that was required to bind this Dominion into one great harmonious whole was the construction of an iron band across the continent. While he was in all respects favourable to the construction of that railway as soon as the country could afford it, he took entire exception to the statement he had just quoted. Something more was wanted to bind this Dominion harmoniously together. After seven years of Confederation, he confessed to a very great surprise at the little unity existing between the representatives of the different Provinces in this House.

He had himself been opposed to Confederation, but since it was an accomplished fact, no man had more zealously laboured in his own sphere for its success than he had. (*Hear, hear.*) But the union which he expected and decided to see had not yet taken place, principally he conceived, as the result of the iniquitous system of setting Province against Province and favouring a spirit of jealousy and sectionalism, initiated for party purposes by the late Government. (*Hear, hear.*) Never until the members of this House ceased to make a point of telling how much sugar and molasses were used in New Brunswick and how much shipping materials in Nova Scotia—as compared to Ontario or Quebec—would there be that union for which we all longed.

He had always felt himself that the hon. gentlemen now in power had the ability, the intelligence, and patriotism which would enable