

opinion now, that there is no danger of direct taxation, but even if there is, it would be a very good thing for the people. He went on to show it was the correct way of taxing the people, that it would make them more careful as to how the money was spent, and for a long time he argued in its favor. However, in 1878, the hon. gentlemen, knowing then a good deal more, perhaps, of finance and the working of the revenue than he does now, because he has been long out of office, said:

"If you deprive yourselves of your present customs tariff (17½ per cent.) you will have to resort to some method of direct taxation, and that of a very formidable kind."

I ask that hon. gentleman now, how is it that in 1878 it was a dangerous thing to interfere with the 17½ per cent. tariff for fear of being met with direct taxation of a most formidable kind, when now, as we well know, when the needs are such that a larger amount of revenue is required, he tells us, he does not hesitate to say that though you interfere with the 25 per cent. tariff, as it has been called all round, there is no danger of our having to resort to the direct taxation? The hon. gentleman cannot explain this I feel confident. But he was more definite. He went into figures and, knowing how he has failed to accomplish the results he predicted formerly, I am not surprised that he comes to such a conclusion now. In that summer, as reported in the *Halifax Chronicle*, the hon. gentleman said:

"The National Policy was a loss of ten million of Customs duties which would have to be made up by direct taxation, equal to an income tax of 20 per cent."

I always felt a certain amount of comfort in the hon. gentleman's prophecies of gloom. I stated on a previous occasion to this house that, having studied the hon. gentleman's career with some interest, I had come to the conclusion that when he declared the condition of affairs in the country were very much down, they would be very much up, and I find as I live and grow older—and the hon. gentleman reminded me last year that I was very young—I have good reason to hold that opinion of him. The hon. gentleman told us then that, with the slightest interference with the existing trade of that day, direct taxation stared us in the face; and the hon. gentleman who sits behind him, who sat quietly in his seat while his province was maligned, said that if there was the slightest chance of direct taxation he would cry: "Stay your hands." Let us see if the hon. gentleman has the courage of his con-

victions. The hon. member for South Oxford, from whom I have quoted already, and the statement from the old speech of the late Minister of Finance of the Mackenzie Government, lead to the same conclusion, that there is considerable danger of direct taxation. I want now to deal with the charge of corruption, and I may say that the senior member for Halifax (Mr Jones) can be excused for going so often into this, because I have noticed of late years that he seems to burden his mind with all the charges that so disgrace the political hustings in Canada. Now, that hon. gentleman heard the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) charge as one of the serious dangers threatening Confederation, one of the causes of the threatened disruption of Canada, the bribery of Nova Scotia. He did not say, in so many words, that it was bribery under what is known as "better terms," but he alluded to the transaction known as the "Act for better Terms." He charged that, as the *Toronto Globe* charges it, as a bribe paid to Nova Scotia to keep her in Confederation, and naturally he thinks that the men who gave that bribe are worthy of condemnation. He indicted them, he charged not only the men who gave the money as bribers, but the province generally as being bribed, and he declared that it was that reason alone that kept Nova Scotia in Confederation. Will he be surprised to learn that, on the hustings at Halifax, the leader of the secessionists, the leader of one wing of the party in this house, said to the people that he was the man to whom the people of Nova Scotia owed the credit of the bribe, that he was the man most instrumental in obtaining better terms for Nova Scotia. He boasted of it; yet he sits quietly and takes that frightful slap over the face from his leader without uttering a single word. I have something more to say in regard to it, because there is no hon. gentleman who could keep quiet on such a subject. The hon. gentleman heard the hon. member for South Oxford asperse and malign a leader under whom they were at one time proud to serve. Instead of our being guilty of the bribery—the party to which I have the honor to belong—what would the hon. member for South Oxford think of this? If he believes the statement made by the senior member for Halifax (Mr Jones) under his own hand, in a letter he wrote to the press in 1872, when the subject was much discussed—and then I thought it was discussed for the last