

in order that the oil wells of Ontario may pay a large profit to their owners, and the American Coal from which it is produced is allowed to enter duty free, it is waste time to endeavour to make people believe that the policy imposing the duty was not protective. While nearly one third of the goods imported into the Dominion are free, and others pay duties ranging from 5 to 350 per cent., and the tariff by its operation creates manufactures and gives large profits to manufacturers, it cannot be pretended that the tariff has been prepared solely for revenue purposes.

Banishing, therefore, the question of protection for the present, let us calmly consider which of the two parties it will be most for our interest as Nova Scotians to support.

The present Government is mainly upheld by the influence of Ontario, the most powerful, most selfish, and as respects her own interests, the most far sighted Province in the Dominion,

Let us trace the results of her influence on the financial legislation of the Country.

In 1866 we imported into this Province \$14,381,000, on which we paid duties amounting in all to \$1,226,000. The year subsequent to Confederation we only imported \$8,200,000, and paid duties amounting to \$1,132,000. So that previous to that measure we were paying at the rate of \$8.05 per cent., while the year after we had to pay \$13.78 per cent. The year previous to Confederation Ontario and Quebec paid \$13.62 per cent., the year after they only paid at the rate of \$11.83 per cent.

From 1869 to 1873 inclusive, Ontario and Quebec paid at the rate of \$11.91 per cent., while Nova Scotia paid at the rate of \$12.96 per cent. There was then a change of Government. The influence of Ontario is at once felt. The duties in Ontario and Quebec from 1874 to 1877 inclusive, sinks from \$11.91 per cent. to \$11.83 per cent., while those of Nova Scotia rises from \$12.96 per cent. to \$13.69 per cent.

Let us now make a few calculations based upon these figures. Nova Scotia, from 1868 to 1873 inclusive, imported \$55,645,432 worth of goods, and paid duties thereon amounting to \$7,280,426, or at the average rate of \$13.08 per cent, Ontario and Quebec during the same period imported goods valued at \$423,494,284, paying for duty thereon the sum of \$50,462,099, or at the average rate of \$11.91 per cent. Now had Nova Scotia paid at the same rate as those Provinces, she would only have paid as duty the sum of \$6,627,705. If those Provinces had paid at the same rate as Nova Scotia, they would have paid the sum of \$55,497,296. Let us now take the years for which the present Government are responsible, from 1874 to 1877 inclusive, and we will find that Nova Scotia imported goods worth \$39,671,476, and paid for duties \$5,434,541, while Ontario and Quebec, importing \$345,889,565, paid for duties only \$40,931,228. If Nova Scotia had been paying at the same rate as those Provinces, she would only have paid the sum of \$4,694,524. If those Provinces had paid at the same rate as Nova Scotia, they would have paid the sum of \$47,383,024. The Blue Books therefore show that under the McDonald Government in six years we paid out of a total amount of \$7,280,426 the sum of \$652,721 more than the proportion paid by these Provinces; and that under the present Government in four years out of total amount