

realized, then the men who grappled with and carried out this mighty undertaking will be regarded as benefactors of this country, and will receive the respect and gratitude of all true Canadians. And, Mr. Speaker, I may add that our right hon. leader, who has labored so diligently and so successfully in carrying forward this work, who, while not unmindful of the interests of the older provinces, never lost sight of this undertaking, although often assailed by the opposition of gentlemen opposite, and sometimes met by the fears and doubts of his friends, yet never lost sight of this work, but labored faithfully, zealously and intelligently to complete it, and bind together and make one people all who dwell beneath the British flag on this continent, and strengthen and maintain British institutions—if those predictions shall be in any part realized, he will have the highest reward that can come to the greatest statesman, the satisfaction of knowing, of believing, of seeing that he has wrought a great advantage for his country. Sir, I believe that those predictions will be largely realized, and that a great future lies before us. But I must not detain the house to speak of that future. I was contrasting for a moment, in passing, the past with the present, the condition of things in 1867 with the condition in 1886. And, sir, it is not alone, in the increased area nor in the improved means of inter-communication which we now have, but the change is most marked in the great improvement in the condition of the vast body of the people. Measured by every standard that tests the condition of a people, we see that they have made great progress, by the accumulations in our savings and our commercial banks, by the traffic upon our railways and upon our waters, by the growth of our towns and cities, by the private and public buildings which adorn them, by the comfortable homes of our rural population, by churches and schools, and all the varied avocations in which men are engaged, and which mark the growth, the progress, the wealth and happiness of the people. Sir, in speaking thus and expressing gratification at the growth of the Dominion, I do not forget my experience in the past with some minds narrow by nature or with prejudice, who will say that it is, perhaps, not in good taste in a Nova Scotian, not in good taste in me, particularly, to express this gratification. Sir, I desire a word of personal explanation, and I am moved the more thereto by the fact that the leader of the Opposition, when nothing else could be found to occupy his great mind at the opening of this session, directed my attention, when I should occupy this place to-day, to the position I occupied in 1867. It is true that Nova Scotia was opposed to Confederation, but mainly owing to the financial terms then proposed; it is true that I

joined in that opposition, but when the act was passed I took the earliest opportunity to define my position as a candidate for this house. Addressing a large public meeting of my constituents, I said—and, if I remember rightly, my remarks were reported by the gentleman who occupies the chief place at the table of this house—I said: The act of Confederation has become law, it is the act of the British Empire, and no power that we possess can void it. We shall live under it, we shall test its working, and if I am elected as your representative in the House of Commons, believing that the terms on which we are admitted are unfair to Nova Scotia and may be amended, I shall labor to have them amended, and I shall join those who will endeavor to promote the best interests of the whole country at large. In substance, that was my pledge to the people of my county; and when I came here my utterances were in that direction, to have a modification of the terms on which Nova Scotia was admitted. And, sir, to-day I stand with that pledge redeemed, with having aided to secure better terms for my little province down by the sea, and in having joined with those who were giving, and have given, their best energies to the development and progress of the whole country. And with that pledge redeemed, I feel as free to express proud satisfaction at the progress of our common country as the most ardent Confederate of 1867. Now, Mr. Speaker, having detained the house with this introduction, I desire to invite attention to the public accounts which were submitted to the house some days ago, and which, I have no doubt, have been examined by hon. gentlemen present. Permit me, sir, to direct attention to several points which seem to call for consideration. And first, dealing with the receipts of 1885, it will be noted that the late Finance minister, in his budget speech, placed the revenue likely to be received at \$33,000,000, including in that amount the sum of \$500,000 estimated receipts from the sale of Dominion lands. The actual amount received from the several sources came to \$33,190,618, of which the amount from Dominion lands was \$393,618, the excess over the estimate being \$190,618. Many of the items in the receipts and in the estimates approach each other very closely. For instance, the post office revenue was estimated to produce \$1,900,000; it did produce \$1,841,382. The revenue from public works, including railways and canals, was estimated at \$3,000,000; it did produce \$3,065,000. The interest on investments was estimated to produce \$1,900,000; it did produce \$1,997,000. Miscellaneous revenues brought in altogether \$605,838, against an estimated amount of \$800,000. Dominion lands produced but \$393,618. The interruption of the receipts from that source was caused by the troubles in the Northwest, on account of