

"I repeat that I am convinced that a tariff of two dollars and seventy-five cents per head on the whole Confederation will meet its annual necessities for many years to come. I want this to go on record. If I have any reputation in financial matters, I wish to stake it on this estimate; and I will give you one of my reasons for doing so. The expenses of government do not increase proportionate to population; but a tariff increases *per capita* on the increase of population.

"When, in 1860, the United States had 30,000,000 of people only, the revenue was fifty-four million dollars, or \$1.65 per head. Had I time, I could go into many other points.

"I will give my figures to the press, and, if anyone can discover any error in them let him do so. I am satisfied that, as Canada now pays only \$2.40 per head of tariff, as the United States paid only \$1.65 in 1860, and as we have made provision for local legislative work, we shall find \$2.75 amply sufficient for the purposes of Confederation, for at least a quarter of a century to come."

He (Mr. King) referred to the fact that but little more than half the time named had rolled around, and yet it was found that, before the introduction of this tariff, our taxes had increased to six dollars *per capita*, - and, under the operation of this tariff, the people of New Brunswick would be compelled to pay no less than eight dollars and twenty-five cents per head, or a sum three times greater than the hon. gentleman predicted would be required of them at the expiration of a quarter of a century. Since coming here he (Mr. King) had had the honour of serving on the Committee for the promotion of immigration and colonisation. He had listened to evidence volunteered by gentlemen interested in the settlement of the great North-West. He was not aware what the Government policy was with reference to this important matter, but he could assure them that if they wished to depopulate New Brunswick, they had but to apply this National Policy. He would not detain the House longer than to say again that he regretted to have to oppose the hon. the Minister of Finance, by voting against this tariff.

MR. WELDON.

March 28th, 1870.

Mr. WELDON said, if the hon. member had visited the city of St. John, N.B., he would have altered his opinion respecting the effect of this policy. Far from being a benefit to the Maritime Provinces, it would crush their industries. He would leave the questions of Free-trade and Protection to men of more experienced ability than himself, but, so far as regarded that portion of the Dominion which he had the honour to represent, he would call the attention of the House to the effect of this tariff there. The hon. member for Queen's (Mr. King) said he had been for many years a follower of the Minister of Finance, that, by his seductive arguments he had been led to support the project of Confederation. He (Mr. Weldon) had taken the opposite view; he had opposed the union of New Brunswick with the other Provinces, dreading the majority which would overwhelm the lower Provinces, and cause sectional feeling to override public spirit, and one portion of the Dominion to be sacrificed to the interests of another. He had referred back to the period before Confederation to ascertain what then was the position of New Brunswick. Their tariff was then a small one, and the Finance Minister then endeavoured to prove that it would not be exceeded under Confederation for even a quarter of a century to come. Scarcely half that period had elapsed when they found it had nearly trebled. He would call attention to the speech of the Finance Minister, in which he first unfolded to the people of his native Province the advantages he would derive from his Confederation scheme. On the 7th November, 1864, in the metropolis of New Brunswick the hon. gentleman addressed an audience, and held out the prospect that they would manufacture for Ontario, and that their stream would be used to turn the mills for the manufacturers of goods for the Dominion; but the picture to-day was the reverse, and it was Ontario that would manufacture for the Lower Provinces, not they for Ontario. In 1864 and 1865, as during the last election when the famous telegram was sent from John Boyd, the wires were used, though for a different