

were to do so, would the people of the Maritime Provinces submit to be bribed—for it amounted to that—by the miserable advantage of the difference in the taxation between imposing these duties now and a few months hence, to accept a Union which before they had professed to detest? It was not by being generous to one section at the expense of another that they were to consolidate the Union, but by being just to all. Any other course would cause a sense of injustice to be felt. Every member who addressed his constituents against this Union stated they would have to submit to increased taxation. If there was increased taxation it was no more than they would have had if they had remained out of the Union. To change this tariff or postpone it for a few months, would not induce the representatives from Nova Scotia to alter their political course, or withdraw their projected appeal against this Union. If they were willing to abandon all their opposition, join heartily in working the constitution, and give it their support, then it would be well worthy of the people and Government of the Dominion to consider it.

Mr. Holton came to Parliament a strong advocate for Union, and was not disposed to vote against the Government; but as this tariff now stood, he could not vote for it, in justice to his constituents. He had not lost faith in the Union, but he believed we should all derive benefit from it, and with a proper system of economy they need not have much more tax than formerly. He thought this tariff would bear very heavily upon the Maritime Provinces. He did not care how much duty they placed upon spirits, but he would go against any more duties being placed upon the necessaries of life. He had contended very strongly that there should be no duty placed upon flour in the Maritime Provinces, because Canada had more flour than was needed for home consumption. The amount of revenue to be derived from this source would be small. They only realized \$1,411 on this article last year, when the duty was 50 cents per barrel.

Mr. Gibbs said the principle adopted by the Hon. Minister of Justice was the only one he could possibly take. *Fiat Justitia ruat cælum*, was his maxim, and it would commend itself to every member of the House. If the question is to be brought up constantly, let it be disposed of at once and dealt with fairly and justly. In preparing the tariff, they should consult the interests of the whole Dominion, for they were now united as one people for

[Sir John A. Macdonald (Kingston)]

weal or woe, and their constitution did not exist only upon paper as had been announced on the floor of this House. The representative from the Eastern Provinces complained of the duties put upon breadstuffs. It was necessary at our last session to put a duty of 50 cents a barrel on flour, which was to some extent retaliatory upon the Americans, as it was not supposed the revenue would be derived from it. While this duty was placed upon flour, none had been imposed upon wheat. This gave Canadian millers the opportunity of grinding American wheat, and at the same time supplying consumers without imposing additional burdens. He had no direct personal interest in this matter, other than that common to his own constituents and the people of the Dominion generally. The only mills which ground American wheat were those on the direct line of the great water communications, as the mills on the Welland and Lachine Canals. The Canadians, in view of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty turned their attention to direct provincial trade, and have nearly controlled it since. The policy of the Americans is by imposing a specific duty on wheat of 20 cents, and an *ad valorem* duty on flour of 20 per cent, materially to damage the milling interest of Ontario, and send our fine wheats out of the country to be ground. Let the trade be reciprocal, but don't open our markets to their manufactures, while theirs are closed to ours. Their policy was restrictive, and we were asked to adopt that of free trade. Under existing regulations, he could not see its propriety. We were asked to pursue a policy which was a premium to refuse the renewal of a reciprocity treaty. The propriety of this he could not see. He said the exports of flour to the Provinces had increased from \$193,735 in 1864 to \$2,605,548 in 1867, and that while flour was admitted free from us into New Brunswick. This would show that the duty proposed was more nominal than otherwise. The policy proposed of a duty of 10 cents on corn and 5 cents on cornmeal per barrel, was a premium offered to grind corn in the States rather than in the Provinces. Meet the views of the Provinces by letting it in free, and increase the duties on whisky instead. He went on to speak of duties asked to be placed on coal, but said no duty, except a prohibitory one, would enable them to compete with coal brought in ballast from England. He hoped calm consideration would be given to the tariff, and trusted when revised in March it would be permanent.