

tial trial, he presumed that trial meant a servile following of the learned Knight at the head of the Government, so long as he continued to distribute the patronage in a judicious manner among the members of that honourable gentleman's party. As regarded the present Government, while a party man and opposed to Coalition, he (Mr. Bodwell) was not prepared to say he would not accept good measures at the hands of the present Administration. He reminded the Minister of Public Works of his declaration in Lanark, during the elections, that on the assembling of the House, if the Reform members desired he should leave the Administration, he would do so, and return to the Reform ranks. He (Mr. Bodwell) believed it would be for the interests of the country if the honourable gentleman now fulfilled the pledge, for he believed any Coalition Government for the ordinary administration of affairs must necessarily be a corrupt and extravagant government.

**Mr. Carmichael (Pictou)** explained the manner in which the election in his county had been carried. He objected to Nova Scotia occupying a position of inferiority and existing by sufferance.

**Mr. Oliver** heartily concurred in the congratulations offered to His Excellency on the consummation of the Confederation scheme. He felt grieved that the gentlemen from Nova Scotia had not come with the resolve to join the other members of this House in making our new constitution a great success. He could not help sympathizing with them in consequence of the mode and manner in which the scheme had been carried in opposition to the will of the people. He hoped, however, that they would allow the constitution to be judged by its fruits, and if those fruits were unpalatable to them, he, for one, would not oppose dissolution of the Union, so far as they were concerned. Mr. Oliver then proceeded to show, at some length, that in the arrangement of the details as to the debts of the several Provinces, and the subsidies to be paid them, Nova Scotia received justice—and more than that, as compared with the other Provinces. He pointed out that they received the benefit of the Government buildings and other important works which had been paid for, without being required to contribute an equivalent. There was one thing, however, which Nova Scotians dreaded in joining this Union—which he was free to confess he dreaded also. This was the raising of the tariff. He thought it would be for the

interest of the Dominion that the tariff, instead of being raised should be reduced so as to approximate to that heretofore prevailing in the Maritime Provinces. He thought that the true principle to regulate our commercial transactions with all other countries would be perfect freedom. He dissented from the opinion of the member for Hants, that we were not in a position to defend ourselves. He believed that backed by the whole strength of the Mother Country, we need not fear an aggressive movement from any quarter whatever. In illustration of that point he read an extract from a speech of the Hon. Mr. Brown, and remarked that the member for West Toronto in his speech last night had availed himself of these figures without acknowledging the source whence he derived them. Mr. Oliver adverted to a statement made by the Minister of Finance that Ministers had carried the elections in the Province of Ontario because the people of that Province sanctioned the policy of the late Ministry, and especially their banking policy. Such was not the fact. The people were asked, during the elections, to forget the past history of these men, and to give the Ministry a fair chance in working out Confederation. As regarded the currency scheme, he had himself voted for it, but did so because the assurance was held out to the House that if sufficient money could be raised by the sale of Provincial debentures, the currency scheme would not be put in operation. He asserted that faith had not been kept with the country in this matter—that if 7 per cent. debentures had been put on the market in a proper manner, they would have been readily taken, but that the scheme of selling debentures was so managed as to secure its failure. The late Finance Minister said that the Commercial Bank did not fail in consequence of the contraction of the currency. In opposition to that statement, he (Mr. Oliver) contended that the effect of the scheme was to produce generally the impression that when the Bank of Montreal had received such superior advantages, no currency was safe, and the want of confidence thus produced gave rise to the run upon the Commercial Bank, and its suspension. As regarded the alleged approval by the people of the banking policy of the Government, he ventured to say if the election had taken place after the failure of the Commercial Bank, not one in five of the gentlemen opposite from Ontario, supporting the Administration, would have found a seat in the House. Mr. Oliver proceeded to advert to the real cause which he conceived had given