

back Provinces, as he called Ontario and Quebec; that New Brunswick was to become the Birmingham of the Dominion of Canada. I do not think that prediction has been fulfilled. I do not see any Intercolonial cars being loaded with our manufactures to go up west; but that was the whole strain of the arguments and speeches about the benefits we were to derive from Confederation, according to my hon. friend. The result has been the opposite of what he predicted. The manufactures of the Lower Provinces have been going down since Confederation. Instead of having our commercial agents up here in the west, looking out a market for our agricultural implements, we find quite the opposite. We find our Lower Provinces traversed by commercial agents from Montreal; every hole and corner of the Lower Provinces is flooded with them. Our proportion of the net National Debt, allowing for our assets, is estimated at \$11,500,000, while our share of the gross debt amounts to \$13,000,000. We have a Tariff of over 20 per cent., and are taxed beyond endurance. Our industries are burdened. What encouragement has the agricultural industry received from the National Policy? What has this policy done for the farmer? It taxes enormously everything which he has to eat, drink and wear, and far from increasing the prices of his farm produce. I have never known a period when the products of the farm were so low as they were last year. What has the policy done for the mercantile classes of New Brunswick? It has driven trade from the merchants and the middlemen all along the frontier. It has driven trade from St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's into Eastport and Calais on the Maine sides. I have talked with two of the largest importers in the county of Charlotte, in reference to this policy, and though they are warm supporters of the party in power they admit frankly, notwithstanding their political preferences, that the Tariff was very injurious to them. The Fishery Award was \$5,500,000. Of that one million went to Newfoundland, leaving \$4,500,000 for the four Maritime Provinces in Confederation. Set apart \$900,000 for Quebec, and we have then \$3,600,000 for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, which divided over a period of twelve years

would give to those Provinces \$300,000 a year. As it is in the Treasury of the Dominion it should bear interest. Interest on \$300,000 at 6 per cent., one year—\$18,000; so that in the year 1880, the three lesser Provinces would have from this fund, to divide amongst them \$318,000. Allowing their population to be 750,000 it would give us 42½ cents per head. In 1881 we would have two years interest on the next \$300,000, making \$336,000 to be divided in 1882, which would give us 45 cents per head. It would increase 2½ cents per head per annum for the twelve years, making an average *per capita* during those years of 56 cents per head, and would pay more than two-thirds of the 80 cents subsidy we now receive from the Dominion. I am inclined to think, however, we will not receive any portion of that Award. I have seen no evidence yet that we may expect it. I trust the hon. gentlemen now managing affairs will feel it to be their duty to do something for the fishing industry, that has contributed so much to the Treasury. New Brunswick is to-day in the most humiliating position, and is suffering the greatest commercial depression which has prevailed in that Province since the hon. the Finance Minister took charge of its finances twenty-five years ago. Although the electors were warned of the consequences of this policy, and sent here twelve men out of the sixteen to oppose it, we find ourselves powerless to do anything for our Province. Indeed our political humiliation is even greater than our commercial humiliation. The predictions of my hon. friend, with regard to the balance of power that we would exercise in the Confederation, have not been verified. He told us in his speeches on this question, that in all moral questions we would have Ontario with us, and on all matters of fiscal policy, matters of trade, we would have Quebec and the Lower Provinces with us, and, therefore, we would always have the controlling power. But how do we find ourselves now? We find ourselves in a hopeless minority, with very little support from the other Maritime Provinces. We did not dream, when we entered Confederation, that our tax per head would, in so short a time, be raised from \$2.75 to \$6 a head. In a speech made in 1864, my hon. friend said:

"It has been said that figures never lie; but