

April 30, 1874

production as low as possible. In this way they would best attract the capital and labour necessary to develop its resources and increase its prosperity. During the past year the prosperity of this country had been as great as that of the United States, while the cost of living and production had been lower. (*Hear, hear.*)

He held that when the Government found that there was a deficit of \$2,100,000 for the current year, and that there was an estimated deficit of \$2,664,149 for the next year, they did but right to propose increased taxation, and would have been highly censurable if, with that before them, they had allowed our young Dominion to appear before the world as borrowing and adding to its public debt to meet its ordinary annual expenditure. The hon. member for Cumberland had gone on to show that there had been a fall in the securities of the country, and to attack hon. gentlemen on this side of the House for it.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER: I said that it was owing to the publication in the Speech from the Throne of the fact that there was a deficit.

Mr. YOUNG said that the loss of the credit of the country was due more to the corrupt action of the late Government in selling a great public contract. If the hon. gentleman looked at the papers he would see that there was a fall in our securities before the publication of the Speech from the Throne. If the hon. gentleman had been as anxious about the credit of the country as he asserted, he would have admitted that at a time like the present, when we would soon be compelled to go into the money markets of the world to borrow at least \$131,000,000, it would have been simply criminal of the Hon. Minister of Finance not to have provided against a second deficit. (*Hear, hear.*)

As he (Mr. Young) had trespassed more than his wont upon the good nature of the House, at this late hour he would reserve any remarks, if he desired to make any, on the tariff which had been announced by the Hon. Minister of Finance. He would only say that the tax gatherer was never welcome, but he had no hesitation in saying that with the modifications in the details which the hon. gentlemen had made tonight, his tariff would have the support of a great majority of this House and command the confidence of the country. (*Hear, hear.*)

He would remark, in conclusion, that while the engagements of the Dominion were undoubtedly large, particularly in the matter of the Pacific Railway, he did not doubt that its resources would be found equal to the emergency. The only real financial danger, in his opinion, was our attempting to move forward too fast. If the Government were to attempt to perform impossibilities, if they were to undertake to construct the Pacific Railway and the canals in the short space of seven years, if they were to undertake to borrow and expend the sum of \$131,000,000 in that time, then he feared the resources of the Dominion would be over-taxed, and we would find our energies and prosperity crushed under a heavy burden of taxation.

But give the country reasonable time, make it more attractive for capital and labour, and he did not fear that the Dominion would be able to implement all its engagements, and that these great public works, instead of endangering the fabric of the Confederation,

would be the means of binding the various Provinces together, and do much to render stable the Dominion of Canada for all time to come. (*Applause.*)

Mr. DOMVILLE said he rose to express his opinion of the resolutions brought before the House by the Hon. Finance Minister (Hon. Mr. Cartwright). After the able manner in which the Hon. Mr. Tupper had dealt with the question of a deficit, it was unnecessary for him to go over the same ground, and as it was quite apparent that a deficit did not exist, although it would appear from the budget speech that there was one, the public must be fully aware how easy it is to so mix figures that even the shrewdest may be deceived thereby. Yet he did not mean for one moment to intimate that the Finance Minister had done so intentionally, although from want of experience in his special department he may have committed some sad errors.

The question of a duty on tea was one that engaged the attention of the whole country, as it entered so universally into consumption both by the rich and by the poor. Under the present tariff green teas pay a duty of 4 cents per lb., and black 3 cents, whilst under the old tariff green paid 6 and black 4, a difference of 50 per cent. It was argued that this duty was adverse to Ontario, which consumed almost entirely green teas, whilst the Lower Provinces used black. This was a fallacy, inasmuch as it would be found by examining the trade returns for the fiscal year ending 1873 that the poor man who consumed a dollar's worth of black tea paid as much *ad valorem* as he who consumed green. Under the present tariff the results were the same. Thus it would be seen that the Lower Provinces stand in no better position than Ontario.

The Trade and Navigation returns lately laid on the table showed that twenty-two million pounds of tea were entered for consumption in the past year; this, under the present tariff, would yield a revenue of one million dollars, whilst the Finance Minister calculated on raising only some four hundred thousand dollars. This deduction was made from the Blue Book brought down, and presuming the statistics contained in it to be correct, a sum of six hundred thousand dollars would be extracted from the working classes over and above what the Finance Minister informed the House he expected to obtain. The Minister of Customs' report might be incorrect; but if such was the case, it should be now stated to the hon. members of the House by the Ministry, and in default of such statement those figures must be accepted as correct.

With regard to the tax on tobacco, which it was alleged did not bear hardly on the poor man, he asked hon. members how they would like a reduction of fifty per cent on the \$1,000 salary they voted into each other's pockets last session. Yet this was what, with little thought, they intended doing to the poor man.

Mr. THOMPSON: The hon. gentleman has no right to allude to a previous debate. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. DOMVILLE: Where tobacco heretofore paid 10 cents duty, it would now pay 20 cents. Cigars being a luxury, he had little to say on that point.