

the first of July favoured that opinion. This would necessarily come wholly from Ontario and Quebec. Then, if they would look to the expenditure of Canada, prior to Confederation, they would find several items that would not occur another year:—The Paris exhibition, \$50,000; Ottawa buildings, \$200,000; secret service, \$40,000; customs duties refunded, \$270,000; and a few other items, amounting altogether to \$611,000. Add to this a most certain increase in the excise duties of \$600,000. Therefore, as regards Canada alone, the Finance Minister would not have found it necessary to recommend a measure of increased taxation, and if the Lower Provinces had to pay additional taxes, it was in consequence of their own financial position, independently of the financial condition of Canada. These facts should be explained and laid before the people of the Lower Provinces before this tariff Bill was brought down. He had very strong political objections to the imposition of additional taxes at this moment. He did not desire it for the purpose of embarrassing the Government, but as a friend and well-wisher of the Union; he desired that no obstruction should be put in the way of the best possible working of the Union. Look at the feeling in Nova Scotia. The people of that Province felt that Confederation had been imposed upon them against their will, and it was fraught with serious disadvantages to them. That being the case, he thought it would be admitted that the policy of this Parliament should be to avoid every possible cause of irritation to that Province, and to adopt every mode of conciliating them and inducing them to believe that we had wished them into partnership with ourselves, not for the purpose of putting them in a worse position but a better, and to help to improve their condition in common with our own. We should do all in our power to show that we wish to deal with them fairly, and to treat them as well as (if not better than) ourselves. What was the position we were going to be placed in by passing this measure? They knew the feeling that existed in Nova Scotia. They had heard it expressed in this House. It had been charged against the Government that they were acting in the interest of the Western Provinces and to the detriment of those in the East. They had been charged with imposing additional taxation, and that that taxation was for the benefit of the West, and not for their benefit. What would be the effect of this measure at this moment, when gentlemen from Nova Scotia were going to leave to-mor-

row? They would carry away with them a record that would weaken the friends of Union in that Province, and encourage its opponents. It was a serious political mistake, bringing down at this time this measure of the equalization of taxation. The calling on the people of Ontario and Quebec to endure additional taxation for a few months longer was nothing compared with conciliating Nova Scotia. It was a most unwise step, he believed. The friends of Union—and he spoke as one of them—were so thoroughly imbued with the necessity of supporting the present Government that they would support them in this course; but he hoped his argument would prevail with them, and that they would even now pause in the course they had laid down. He believed he spoke the views of friends of the Union in this House when he said they would be glad to see the Government take a conciliatory course rather than persist in the one which would give their opponents—he would not call them enemies—cause to believe we were going to wrong them, give them an opportunity of going back to their constituents and saying that their worst predictions had been verified and would cause the friends of Union in that Province to hang their heads with shame. He knew the Government wished to make Confederation as successful as possible; and, as their supporter and well-wisher, he would entreat them to consider once more, before the step is irrevocable, whether it was not better in the interest of the whole people, to ask the people of Ontario and Quebec to continue to contribute additional taxes for a few months—yes, he would say years, even—more than the people of Nova Scotia, for the purpose of conciliating them and combining together more closely those Provinces under one Government. (Cheers).

Sir John A. Macdonald said the only way to maintain the strength which his honourable friend had said they possessed, was by doing justice to all sections of the country. They would not be worthy of the support they had received from the people and Parliament if, in order to win over any portion of the Dominion, they did manifest injustice to other portions. The honourable gentleman had shown that they were not doing any injustice to the Lower Provinces, and yet he wanted to delay the measure before the House—which everybody would admit would be great injustice to other Provinces. If taxation be just and fair as between old Canada and the Maritime Provinces, as he had admitted it to be, why ask the delay, and if they