

building entirely free from taxation. (Hear.) He said, as an Ontario man, that such an important interest should be fostered and encouraged to the fullest extent, and he was sure that Ontario would assent to this. His opinion was that the Government should avail themselves of the necessity of raising three millions more money in some way to give encouragement to the manufacturing interests of the country. He thought that they would have made no mistake if they had raised the duty on articles now in the 15 per cent list, to 20 per cent. He went on further to state that goods paying 15 per cent *ad valorem* duty would amount in imports to \$52,616,682, which at that rate would produce a duty of \$7,925,502, showing a probable increase of \$2,630,834.

Hon. Mr. READ remarked that he wished to approach the subject under discussion in a spirit of moderation and candour and in accordance with the usages of this House, and felt it his duty to make some objections and severe criticisms. He claimed the measure was of that character to warrant him in doing so. What was this measure? It was to increase the burthens of the people to the extent of three millions of dollars. In his remarks he should confine himself entirely to the Financial portion of the subject and not at present touch upon the sources from which the extra money is to be derived. In doing so he would refer to the speech of the Finance Minister when he introduced this measure into the House of Commons and which after being revised and printed in pamphlet form was distributed for guidance and information. He had heard upon the floor of the House, as well as in other places, that this was a measure we had very little to do with, but exclusively belonging to the other branch of the Legislature. To this he entirely dissented and claimed the undoubted right to deal with all questions, both financial and otherwise, in accordance with all understood constitutional usages in England, which right was accorded to them by the British North American Act passed at the Confederation of these Provinces, or else what is it here for? If not, this House would be but the Recording Secretaries of the House of Commons, and we might as well go home and allow the Clerk to do the recording, which would be a great saving of time and money, as well as exposing our health at this late hour of the night. (Hear, hear.) It will be in the memory of all in this House, that the House of Lords in 1860 refused to repeal the then existing duty on paper and im-

pose an additional penny in the pound on the income tax, and that while they agreed to the extra income tax they refused to allow the duty to be taken off paper, although it was so passed in the Commons. The conclusion he arrived at was this, if they had the power to impose taxation, they had the power to resist taxation, and this right has not been disputed by the Commons; but the expediency of their doing so upon only the most urgent occasions is another thing. In reviewing the Financial statement of the Government he felt a great diffidence especially as he was surrounded by gentlemen of great business capacity—men of experience as bankers, merchants, lawyers, mostly on the retired list, and in doing so he claimed their indulgence, if in the course of his remarks, he did not explain intelligibly to them his figures. He courted enquiry and would feel a pleasure in answering any question regarding the figures he presented for their consideration. The Finance Minister admits he has no official experience which, from his measure, he was not inclined to dispute. The first proposition he started with was that he had assumed the responsibility of his predecessors, and that they had left a deficiency. This he did not concur in and would prove to every member of the House, if statistics are correct, of which he had the same opportunity of judging and making calculations as the Finance Minister that that was not correct. He would ask hon. members of the House to follow him closely: The Finance Minister commences by saying we have lately had years of plenty, but it must be remembered that at present the agricultural interest of the country, although not seriously depressed, cannot be said to be in as flourishing a condition as it was a few years ago. To this he took exception. In Ontario, is it not so, and in other portions of this great Dominion? He believed it was so in New Brunswick and in Quebec, and from the silence of Senators he concluded he was correct in saying there is not depression in agricultural communities in this country; and, furthermore the Finance Minister's statement is not true. The next proposition was, that we had stood still, but had not retrograded, both of which he ventured to dispute. He would now proceed to the merits of the question. The Finance Minister admits, first that we had a surplus of (\$1,600,000) one million six hundred thousand dollars in the year 1872. While that is true in the main, it must be remembered we took off the duties on tea and coffee, and 5 per