

twenty-five years, to the time I first entered Parliament in New Brunswick, when I had the honour of being associated with the hon. the Finance Minister. The Conservative party had then ruled the Province, perhaps fifty years. The family compact had controlled affairs a long time. The hon. the Finance Minister was then a Liberal, and on the defeat of the Conservative Government, when it was necessary to form a new Administration, he was selected as the most eligible man for Provincial Secretary. He had some reputation for financial skill, having acquired it largely by his addresses on Temperance. He was very clever in toting up totals, and used to indulge in many figures to show the enormous evils of intemperance, and the cost of the drinking habits of society. He would represent to his audience how many horses and waggons in a straight line it would take to draw the money, in silver, that the drinking habits of society cost; and, occasionally, to vary the entertainment, he would tell us how long a canal, and how broad and deep would be that which the rum and water would represent, that was drunk in the country. Having had a large experience in public speaking and in this kind of arithmetic, we concluded he was about the best man for that office. He took charge of the Provincial Finances in 1854, and controlled them ten or twelve years, till the question of Confederation came up. During all those years I supported him in the main, and found him very amiable—full of the milk of human kindness. But I found he became very much changed when defeated and out of office, after his office had, for the time being, been filled by another man. He was remarkably kind and gentle, as pleasant as he is now when he is in a majority. But he has certainly assumed a very different character. He became very uneasy out of office; he was certainly a different man out of office from what he was in office. I had occasion to fill that office, and I say he and his supporters acted more like a set of political hyenas than anything else. Instead of being a docile person, as he was when he became so lamb-like, he was more like a roaring lion going about seeking whom he might devour. He devoured me; financially, I was used up when I went in. There was nothing in the Treasury, and

there never will be where my hon. friend has been. When I went into office, there was a very considerable sum in the Treasury. I think there was \$6,000, with which to meet Parliament and commence my financial operations. The first thing I had to do was to go off and try to borrow some money. Parliament was to meet, and I had to provide for the indemnity of the members and other financial engagements. I had never had much to do with finances; I did not know how to meet the banks at that time. I had no acquaintance with them; but I mustered up courage, and went up to St. John and went into the Bank of British North America. I told them I wanted to raise a little money to carry us through the Session, and they said that as they were an institution of the country and wanted to render all the help they could, as they were doing business there and making money, it was but right for them to write to Montreal and see what they could do. I went to another bank and could not get anything. I went to another bank and managed to borrow some \$20,000. I borrowed some \$15,000 or \$20,000 from another bank. I went back to Fredericton and began to attend to my duties. In a short time I got an answer from the Bank of British North America that they would loan us \$5,000. I thought I would not be under an obligation to an institution of that magnitude for a sum like that. Well, the hon. gentleman, as I said before, very soon devoured us. We went to the country and were defeated. But when my hon. friend went into the office of Provincial Secretary there was no Public Debt in New Brunswick. I think the debt at that time could not have exceeded \$100,000. The Tariff was not over 10 per cent. My hon. friend was in office until Confederation, at which time there was a debt of \$5,000,000, and we had obligations to the extent of \$2,000,000, so we came into Confederation with a debt of \$7,000,000. Such were my hon. friend's financial operations in New Brunswick. Little as I regarded the Tories when we turned them out, financially speaking, I thought we might have been as well off if we had kept them in. My hon. friend went into the agitation for Confederation. He told us that would be a panacea for all our ills; that we were going to manufacture for the