

is perfectly clear we do not get any duty. If you reduce the protective tariff so that the goods can be imported, then there is a chance to get revenue ; and anything clearer than that cannot be well imagined. If you have a revenue tariff, a tariff fixed at a pretty low figure, which does not shut out importations and is not protective, a slight increase in that tariff will give you an increased revenue, because our people have to get goods from the outside world.

His Excellency refers to his travels during the recess of Parliament ; and as to that paragraph of the speech I wish simply to remark that His Excellency and his countess made a most favourable impression on the people of Nova Scotia wherever they went. I hope that this feeling is mutual. I hope that His Excellency and the Countess of Aberdeen have been favourably impressed by Nova Scotia and its people.

There is another important paragraph in the address, and when I have done with that I shall resume my seat—that is the paragraph with respect to the admission of Newfoundland. This paragraph says :

We receive with a deep sense of their importance Your Excellency's statements that the Government of Newfoundland having intimated its desire to renew negotiations looking to the admission of that colony into the Dominion of Canada, a sub-committee of Your Excellency's advisers have recently met in conference a delegation from the Island Government and discussed with them the terms of union, and that it will be a subject of general congratulation if the negotiations now pending result in the incorporation of Her Majesty's oldest colonial possession into the Canadian Confederation.

It would be a benefit to the province from which I come if Newfoundland entered the union. It would probably be of some benefit also to other portions of the Dominion ; but the action of Parliament on the question of the admission of that island should depend on the terms agreed upon. There is such a thing as buying even Newfoundland at too high a price. We should not purchase a quarrel. Canada should insist that the question of the French shore should be settled in a satisfactory way before Newfoundland comes into the union. We all know that England finds that question troublesome and England would be only too happy to get rid of the trouble and hand it over to Canada to be dealt with. We have trouble enough of our own of various kinds, and we should not consent to take Newfoundland in until this question has been finally settled

in a satisfactory way. There is another important point with respect to the proposed admission of Newfoundland. Whatever terms are agreed upon between the present government of Newfoundland and the government and Parliament of Canada, should be submitted to the popular vote in Newfoundland. The present representatives of that island were not elected with reference to the question of union at all. That question was not in issue in any sense. The present representatives of the constituencies of Newfoundland have no mandate whatever to hand over their island to Canada, and Canada should not be a party to any such transaction as that would be. I never supposed that anything of the kind was probable ; but I have noticed in the papers since the visit of the delegates to Ottawa, statements that it was not intended to take the sense of the voters of Newfoundland on this question. I hope Canada will not be a party to what all fair minded men must regard as a gross outrage on popular rights. If sound principle and a feeling of fair play to the voters of Newfoundland do not prevent the Parliament of Canada from agreeing to the union without a vote of the island electors being first taken on the question, surely the experience which Canada had of Nova Scotia in the early days of confederation should prevent us from having a second edition of Nova Scotia. We can afford to wait until Newfoundland is ready to come in, until her people are satisfied to come in. The day will come when the majority will be satisfied to come in, if they are not satisfied now, and we can wait. Some hon. gentleman spoke of Newfoundland as being the key of the confederation, and he seemed to think that was a very strong reason why we should grant almost any terms for her admission to the union ; but while the key of confederation is in the hands of the mother country, I think we can rest easy.

With respect to the measures which are proposed to be introduced, there is only one to which I wish to refer, and that is an insolvency law. Hon. gentlemen know that a good deal of time was devoted last year to the consideration of a measure respecting insolvency, and that when that measure had reached its final form, there was still a good deal of difference of opinion amongst hon. members with respect to its merits. That measure was asked for chiefly by the boards of trade and the banks of Ontario and