

In proof of the assertion that the people of the Island are principally engaged in agriculture and fishing, the undersigned would again advert to the Census Returns of 1881, which show that (the N.W. Territories not being included)—

One-half the area of Prince Edward Island is cultivated.

Only one-twenty-fifth of the other Provinces is cultivated.

Prince Edward Island has a population of 51 to the square mile.

The other provinces only 4.72.

Prince Edward Islands owns 55 animals of live stock for every 100 acres of improved land.

The other provinces only 38.

In field products, Prince Edward Island raises to the acre of improved land 108 $\frac{3}{4}$  bushels.

The other provinces only 61 $\frac{1}{4}$  bushels.

From the Fisheries, Prince Edward Island produces \$17.08 per head value.

The other provinces \$3.55.

The people of the Island are generally in comfortable circumstances, in proof of which may be adduced the amount of deposits per head in the Savings Banks, which averages \$16.59 for the Island against \$7.66 for the rest of the Dominion.

These figures clearly prove that the people of Prince Edward Island, from the fact of their not being extensive manufacturers, are under the necessity of using imported goods to a large extent, while the fertility of their soil, the value of their fisheries, and their general independence, demonstrate their ability to purchase. This being understood, the undersigned submit the following calculations, designed to show that the imports of dutiable goods into the Island are very much larger than suggested by the Committee of Council, and consequently the contributions to the revenue proportionately greater.

#### METHOD 1.

The average revenue of the Dominion from customs and excise, for the three years ended 30th June 1884, was \$27,603,479. The population of Prince Edward Island to that of the whole Dominion is in the proportion of 1 to 39.7. Upon this ratio, the Island's share of the customs and excise revenue would amount to \$695,301.

#### METHOD 2.

In 1872, the year before its admission into the Union, Prince

Edward Island imported directly from countries beyond

|                        |   |   |   |   |             |  |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|--|
| Canada goods valued at | - | - | - | - | \$1,372,581 |  |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|--|

|                               |   |   |   |   |  |           |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|-----------|
| The duty on which amounted to | - | - | - | - |  | \$184,227 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|-----------|

|                                                      |   |   |   |   |         |  |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------|--|
| And from Canada, goods the growth and manufacture of |   |   |   |   |         |  |
| other countries, valued approximately at             | - | - | - | - | 429,354 |  |

|                               |   |   |   |   |  |          |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|----------|
| The duty on which amounted to | - | - | - | - |  | \$89,168 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|----------|

|  |  |  |  |  |                    |                  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------|------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  | <u>\$1,801,935</u> | <u>\$273,395</u> |
|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------|------------------|

It will surely not be argued that, in thirteen years, with a large increase in population, the Island's imports from countries outside the Dominion have decreased from \$1,801,935 to \$822,966, or over 45 per cent., yet this would appear to be the contention of the Committee of Council.

In 1861 the imports of the Island amounted to \$1,021,669; in 1872 they had increased to \$2,459,064, or at the rate of 138.9 per cent. At the same rate, its imports from countries beyond the Dominion should have increased from \$1,801,935 in 1872 to \$4,304,824 in 1884, which, at the present average tariff (free and dutiable combined) of 18.64 per cent., would give a customs revenue of \$802,419.

#### METHOD 3.

It is a well-established principle that the imports and exports of a country bear a reasonable relation to each other. The imports of the Island for the 10 years preceding Confederation aggregated in value 3,543,147l. sterling; the exports in the same period, 2,559,091l. sterling, showing that the imports exceeded the exports by