

between that honourable gentleman and Mr. King, a deliberate intention on their part to destroy the Banks of Western Canada. During the panic, horsemen were employed, by whom he (Mr. Metcalfe) could only guess, to go through the country, north of Toronto, and advise people to bring their notes into the city and obtain gold for them, and the Bank of Montreal did everything it could covertly to discredit the Royal Canadian Bank, which was the first attacked, because it had somewhat larger circulation than the other banks. It was only when that bank showed its ability to sustain itself by depositing \$50,000 in gold with the Bank of Montreal to meet its balances that the Bank of Montreal ceased its efforts. The correspondence read by the member for Sherbrooke showed how much Mr. King was annoyed by the Government offering to receive the notes of chartered banks, established clearly to his mind the fact that there was then and still existed a deliberate conspiracy to destroy the banks of Western Canada.

**Hon. Mr. Fisher** strongly opposed the imposition of the stamp and flour duties, especially when the duties on brandy and other spirits were reduced. He complained that the representatives of Western Canada did not appreciate the position of the people of New Brunswick, or they would not support taxes which, being new, burdensome, and unsuited to their condition, must necessarily become odious.

**Mr. Ferris** was surprised that such a temperate man as the Minister of Customs would propose a decrease of duty on spirits, and impose taxes on articles of food as well as newspapers. He thought that honourable gentleman would have resigned office before consenting to make such propositions. (Laughter.) He thought the tariff justified what had been said by the opponents of Confederation, and he was sorry the people of the Lower Provinces had not been more justly dealt with.

**Mr. Webb** defended the member for Sherbrooke against the violent attack made upon him by the member for East York, and said that the Government should have had the boldness to make his charges when the member for Sherbrooke was in his place and had an opportunity of defending himself.

**Mr. Gibbs** thought the stamp duty would not be found so objectionable in the Lower Provinces as some honourable members seemed to suppose. He had feared its opera-

tion in Canada but the result showed no form of taxation which was more cheerfully borne by the people. With regard to the explanations of the member for Sherbrooke, there was a lurking suspicion that the real cause of that gentleman's resignation had not yet been fully told. He (Mr. Gibbs) believed he had fallen a victim to his legal tender scheme, and he hoped the Government would not push that scheme to a greater length, for still more injurious effects must follow. Business in the West was now very much embarrassed in consequences of the uncertainty on the part of the banks as to their future course. He trusted Government would see its way to loosening its connection with the Bank of Montreal, and to the liquidation of its floating debt, by some other mode than the issue of legal tenders.

**Mr. Anglin** opposed the new duties proposed by Government, but regarded them as the result of Confederation.

**Mr. Ferguson**, did not believe any propositions could have been offered which would have satisfied honourable gents from the Lower Provinces. They complained when duties were increased, and also complained when they were reduced, so that it appeared at most impossible to please them. With regard to the Bank of Montreal, he hoped, if its connection with the Government continued, that it would either open agencies of its own, or use those of other Banks in the country northwest of Toronto, in order that people in that locality who received Government drafts, might get them cashed without having to submit to discount.

**Mr. Ross (Dundas)** thought if any portion of the Dominion had cause of complaint it was central Canada, as large sums of money were to be expended on the Intercolonial Railroad, and on the opening up of the Red River territory in the West. He regretted sincerely the discontent which prevailed in the Maritime Provinces, but thought they had no cause of complaint. As to the tariff that was fair and equitable to all parts of the Dominion.

**Mr. Read** suggested that the stamp duty be removed, and that the amount be made up by placing an additional duty of 3 cents a gallon on the three million gallons of whiskey manufactured in Canada.

**Mr. Wallace** thought, if Confederation would turn out a failure, it would be only through bad legislation. He was sorry to see that the