

April 1, 1873

Rumours were heard a few days ago, a few months ago, in fact the air was filled with rumours, that the hon. gentleman opposite proposed some plan in order to provide Better Terms for his own province. The hon. gentleman told them that afternoon that he hoped the province would be able to contribute a good deal more to the revenue than it had been able to previously, but no word was said with reference to the important subject of Better Terms. He did think the hon. gentleman was bound to take the House into his confidence and tell how he proposed to meet the demand made by his province.

They were also told that the Government proposed, whether the other provinces were willing or not, to assume the debt of Old Canada in order that they might be able to pay *pro rata* to the people of New Brunswick, and that this, putting them in possession of so much money at once, would have the effect of silencing their objections and enabling them to give that support to hon. gentlemen which seemed to be constantly slipping from their grasp but they had not had that scheme brought down. Was it true such a scheme was in contemplation? Had the Governments of the other provinces been solicited to enter into the scheme, and was it true that the people of New Brunswick were to be parties to an arrangement which, as they paid a larger import duty per head, would merely give them the privilege of paying a portion of the debt of old Canada? He did not know how this was, and with the utmost humility he thought the hon. gentleman might supplement his statement with this information.

It was quite impossible for him in his (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie's) opening remarks to enter fully into the various points. He would, therefore, venture upon no criticisms except upon the points palpably open to criticism. After looking at the hon. gentleman's statements, he would on a future occasion compare them with what he supposed to be the existing facts in relations to certain expenditures, and then he would address the House on the subject. He then would take no unfair advantage of the hon. gentleman in any part of his speech, but he would endeavour while occupying his present position to deal with the hon. gentleman and his measures as he would expect to be dealt with if he (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) occupied the hon. gentleman's position. (*Cheers.*)

The House then rose for recess.

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## AFTER RECESS

The **SPEAKER** took the chair after recess, at 7.20 p.m.

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## THE BUDGET

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said that but for the remarks of the hon. member for Lambton (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) which had special reference to himself as Minister of Finance, he would not

have taken up the time of the House upon that occasion. Before, however, proceeding to reply to these remarks, he would express the very great pleasure with which he, in common with other members of this House, had listened to the able and lucid speech of the hon. Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Tilley). (*Hear, hear.*) He was not at all surprised at that speech, knowing as he did, by long experience in the Government with the hon. Minister, the amount of information that gentleman possessed regarding the financial questions of the whole of this Dominion. On account of that experience, exceeding over two years, he again asserted that he was not at all surprised that the hon. gentleman had given such a lucid and explicit explanation of our financial position and prospects, and he had no doubt that that explanation was satisfactory to the gentleman on his own side if not indeed to the whole House.

Personally he had to thank that hon. gentleman and several others for the kind way in which they had referred to him. He had taken another opportunity of stating the reasons which had induced him to leave the position which the hon. gentleman now so worthily occupied, and he was gratified to be able to state that the kindly feelings which his hon. friend had seen fit to express were fully reciprocated by him, and there was no difference of opinion between himself and any member of the Ministry. They were as fully in accord now as they every were, but he had no desire to take up the time of the House with any remarks of a personal character, but would just venture to make a few observations on the speech of the hon. member for Lambton.

Every hon. member in this House would agree with him (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks) that the chief point in that speech was an attack upon the late Finance Minister in reference to opinions expressed by him during the late election campaign on the subject of Free Trade and Protection. He denied that either he, or the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) had, during that time, expressed any other sentiments upon that question than they still held and certainly not such as they were credited with by the hon. gentlemen opposite. Besides that the opinions they expressed were strictly in accordance with those principles which the hon. gentleman himself claimed to hold and had frequently laid down. He gave that hon. gentleman every credit for his ability and for the manner in which he managed to keep such a large following behind him in this House as he now had, and that in the face of the most inconsistent policy. He was constantly pursuing a policy the most inconsistent which could possibly be conceived. (*Hear, hear; Oh, oh; and cheers.*) He stated unhesitatingly that the hon. gentlemen opposite entertained the most inconsistent and conflicting views with regard to the financial policy of the country which it was possible to conceive.

What were the sentiments of the hon. member for Montreal West (Hon. Mr. Young) as compared with those of the hon. member for Oxford North (Mr. Oliver)? The last named gentleman was an avowed protectionist, and went to his constituents as such, and in this respect he differed entirely from the majority of hon. gentlemen who sat upon that side of the House. He was at one time, and that not very long ago, one of a deputation who had waited on