

this advantage: that, in a population of 40,000, where there would be 10,000 male adults, many of them not electors, many non-electors' signatures could be obtained. Moreover, I find that this petition was sent to every section of the country. This petition does not denote any great change of opinion. The petition is a very remarkable one altogether. I wonder it was not signed by everyone to whom it was presented. It asks that the duty should be taken off sugar, flour, meal and almost everything imported. I see that one gentleman, a supporter of the gentlemen opposite, was quite willing that the duty should be taken off everything but one article, in which he was largely interested, as he is a large stockholder in the Spring Hill coal mines, and he marks on the margin, "except coal." It is necessary to look carefully into a petition, in order to discover what value is to be attached to it. I notice that there is a marvellous similarity in the handwriting of the signatures, and an important feature in connection with the petition is that portions of it are much worn, and in a soiled condition, which is an evidence of the amount of labour expended in hawking it about. The parties signing this petition also signed a joint letter to myself and the county members, asking that the petition should be complied with. I did not receive the letter until several days after I made my financial speech, when it was not possible to take these subjects up and deal with them. I now come to a matter of somewhat personal character. The hon. member for Queen's, (Mr. King) who has taken charge of the city and county of St. John, read an elaborate paper, showing the number of mechanics and tradesmen in the city of St. John, and he took me to task for having made calculations, with reference to the effect of Confederation, financial or otherwise, that were proved to be entirely erroneous. I may say, in this connection, with regard to the question of Confederation, the hon. gentleman did, as he did upon a former occasion, refer to the fact that, I stated the probable Customs and Excise tax, under the arrangements made in Quebec, would be \$2.75 or \$3 a head. But what was the fact? If we bear in mind the arrangements made after the Quebec meeting, and subsequent concessions and readjustment of debts,

we will find that the sums we are now receiving in New Brunswick, as interest on debts and subsidies, is \$3 per head of the present population—a greater sum than it was supposed the necessary taxation would be under the original arrangement. I do not hesitate to say, and it is susceptible of proof, that New Brunswick has received a sum equal to what she has paid year by year into the Dominion Treasury, without paying, to this moment, one cent of interest on the expenditure in connection with the Pacific Railway, the Canals or the Civil Service. Notwithstanding this, I am held up here as entering into an arrangement that has been financially injurious to the Province of New Brunswick. With reference to the condition of that portion of the Dominion, I made some statements the other day in relation to the effect of the National Policy on the manufacturing industries of that Province. At the close of last Session, I stated that a charter had been asked for the establishment of a sugar refinery. As nothing had been done under that charter, my reference to the proposed refinery at Moncton was ridiculed. The other day, I thought I would telegraph to Mr. Harris in respect to this refinery, and I received a reply from his partner, stating that they had commenced the construction of the sugar refinery, and that Mr. Harris was in England for the purpose of purchasing machinery.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: How many men will it employ?

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY: It will employ enough men, so that, by its influence in the town of Moncton, and by the impetus it will give to the trade of Moncton, my hon. friend opposite, at the next election, will not be able to obtain as large a support as he has hitherto done in that town. Then I telegraphed to the Vice-President of the Lock and Brass Company, which has been established with \$200,000 capital, \$60,000 paid up. He says the building is all up, and they will commence work on the 1st of May. The hon. gentleman said: Oh, that is an enterprise that has been contemplated for a long time. An ingenious man residing at Moncton invented a lock and patented it, but he was never able, until this policy was adopted, to manufacture the article.

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY.