

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, the hon. gentleman was misinformed.

Mr. JONES. Well, it was a gentleman in Halifax, on the hon. gentleman's own side of politics, who said that the Minister of Finance, when there, had pledged that the Government would give that subsidy. It is a very proper public work; I do not dispute the propriety of it, but I only say that it is one of the enterprises which, amongst so many, had for the moment escaped my mind.

Mr. TUPPER. The Local Government passed a Bill, the hon. gentleman knows.

Mr. JONES. The hon. gentleman says the Local Government passed the Bill which was called the Lobster Bill, but he did not tell the circumstances in connection with that measure. The Local Government found it necessary to carry out certain railway enterprises, if possible, and they pledged the credit of the country; they went into the money market to supplement these subsidies by the public credit of the country, and in that way and in no other way had they any resources at hand to carry on that work. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman says that Mr. Anglin, when he was in Halifax, promised what would be done by the Liberal Administration, provided they came in power. The hon. gentleman has not done that distinguished man full credit. I think if he had read the whole of Mr. Anglin's speech—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. JONES. I say if he had read it himself; I do not wish him to read it to the House.

Mr. BOWELL. I have read it.

Mr. JONES. He was speaking at Halifax, where there was a great agitation for repeal.

Mr. TUPPER. Headed by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. JONES. I was on the platform, if the hon. gentleman desires to know, and I shall presently give him high authority for my presence there. Mr. Anglin was there referring to the position which the people of Nova Scotia occupied at that time, and regretting that the people of Nova Scotia had found it necessary to pursue a repeal policy; and he said then, the same as had been said by the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), the leader of the Opposition, that he hoped if the Liberal Government came in they would be able to remove those objections which had been pointed out by the Minister of Justice without effect; that the Liberal Government would be able to meet the just expectations of the people of Nova Scotia, so far as regards financial considerations, and would in the end reconcile them to the Union. The hon. gentleman should have given Mr. Anglin full credit for that statement. The hon. gentleman says I have not here avowed my position with reference to the repeal discussion in Nova Scotia. Sir, the hon. gentleman knows me well enough, and hon. members who had a seat in this House before the hon. gentleman was ever here, know me well enough to know one fact—that I have always the courage of my convictions, and that I have never hesitated to explain them here or elsewhere, whatever they may be. The Province of Nova Scotia was dissatisfied and discontented; she was in a bankrupt position—

Mr. HESSON. Who made her so?

Mr. JONES. The Minister of Justice was one of those who pointed out that position. Who made it so? somebody asks me. The men who put us in the Union, the gentlemen who carried out the terms of Union. The hon. gentleman who asked me that question cannot be aware of the fact that, had it not been for the additions made to the revenues of Nova Scotia, time and again, that Province would have been in a position of bankruptcy long ago. But so just were

her claims, when they were presented to the House, and so unfair was the position she originally occupied under the Confederation, so little credit did it reflect on the gentlemen who had charge of Nova Scotia's interests at the conference for the Union, that a very large addition to her revenue was made under the arrangement that was made by Mr. Howe and the present Postmaster General. And a subsequent arrangement was made twice over, and in all these arrangements hon. gentlemen know—no one better than the Minister of Justice himself, whose utterances I gave to the House yesterday—that it was utterly impossible for the Province of Nova Scotia to go on in the position she was in, and maintain her public works. And after the hon. the Minister of Justice had made this application to the Government here, and obtained no answer; after the question was taken up again by the Government which succeeded that Administration, without any answer being given, then it was that the Government deliberately arrived at the conclusion that they must make some effort either to obtain financial consideration or to go out of the Union. They put that question fairly and squarely to the people, and they invited the co-operation of the people of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick to adopt the same policy. They had high authority for that course. I hold in my hand a letter written some time ago by the present Postmaster General. This letter is addressed to one of the late members for the county of Colchester by the Hon. Mr. McLelan, in which he said:

"I am willing to take my share of the responsibility of accepting more money for the local services, and wait a better opportunity to get out of the traces, say until the other Provinces are willing to join us."

That was the course recommended by the present Postmaster General. What does "out of the traces" mean? Why, out of the Union, of course, as soon as we could secure the co-operation of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Therefore I give my hon. friend a very high authority, an authority to which I pay great deference and which he will doubtless regard.

Mr. BOWELL. Is that in 1869?

Mr. JONES. 1869. On that occasion the people of Nova Scotia voted on the question of repeal, and I say this in the presence of hon. members in this House, although I am sorry to have to say it, that the people of Nova Scotia to-day feel their interests are suffering in consequence of their connection with the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. TUPPER. I deny that.

Mr. JONES. I say emphatically that if that question were put to the people of Nova Scotia by a plebiscite, and they believed their vote would decide for or against the Union, I believe three-fourths or seven-eighths of the people of Nova Scotia to-day would vote to be restored to the position they occupied previous to 1867. Regrettable as it may be, perhaps it is not altogether their own fault, because they were led by the delusive expectations of hon. gentlemen opposite into a fiscal policy which they have found ruinous to the best interests of their country. They were captivated by a so-called National Policy of a protective character, and they had not the wisdom to see that a maritime people, situated as we are, with a fishing and mining population, all large consumers and not manufacturers, must be free traders *per se*. But they were captivated by the promises that everything was going to be changed, every man was going to be made rich, and they elected members to this House to support the policy which hon. gentlemen opposite advocated and still sustain. Therefore I state with the hon. leader of the Opposition, that if the people of Nova Scotia are suffering to-day, it is largely due to their own act, because they had not the wisdom to see that the policy under discussion at that time would be detrimental to the best interests of a maritime people. The hon. gentleman