

heard of. The Government were charged by their opponents with having sacrificed the interest of the fishermen to a Canadian policy to issue fishing licences and those who had heard his honourable friend to-night, could form some idea of the effect of his perambulating the country with fierce denunciations of that kind, and with having taxed the bread of the poor man in the interests of Canada, because we believed it impolitic to free their flour from the duty imposed by the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty. The facts, however, remained that the fishing grounds of Nova Scotia were occupied by the fishermen of the United States on payment of an insignificant charge, and a duty existed on American flour. This House could also imagine the consternation and dread excited in the back settlements of the country by vivid and heartrending pictures drawn by his honourable friend of the youth and manhood of the country being drawn from their homes to protect the interminable line of the Canadian frontier. While the people were told on the one hand that they must resort to direct taxation to sustain the local services of the country, Mr. Howe had everywhere asserted the statement made to-night that the first effect of Confederation would be to increase the indirect taxation of the country 50 per cent. It would no doubt be gratifying to the House to know that the financial position of Nova Scotia was so good, but the Finance Minister, who had to find the money, would show the House that, so far, the Dominion had not made much out of that Province. The truth was, that to complete the public works on her own responsibility she would have been obliged to largely reduce the expenditures for the leading services, or increase her tariff to at least 15 per cent. Then it must not be forgotten that the recent election was run under a franchise created by the Government of my honourable friend, and which came into operation for the first time at the last election. In addition to all this, the Government was obliged just before the dissolution to bring in a new representation bill in order to adapt the Local Constitution to the new state of things under the Union. We were thus compelled to reduce largely the representation of several Counties, an act in itself extremely repulsive to the electors. The popular cry was raised that the Union, irrespective of its merits, had been forced on the people in an arbitrary and unconstitutional manner. I need not in this House, I am sure, defend the mode in which the Union Act was carried by the Imperial Parliament, based upon the action of large

[Dr. Tupper (Cumberland)]

majorities in the Legislatures of all the Provinces affected by that Act. Pitt and Peel, and all the most eminent statesmen of England, have in the most unmistakable terms asserted the right of Parliament to deal with any question, constitutional or otherwise which in their judgment the good of the country demanded. My honourable friend himself and all the leading public men in Nova Scotia, had from time to time recorded their opinion in favour of the colonies being united precisely in the mode adopted in this instance. Yet Unionists and anti-Unionists alike were called upon to denounce the mode as an invasion of their rights, and punish those who carried the measure. Notwithstanding all these advantages in going to the polls, the House will be surprised to learn that my honourable friend Mr. Howe and his supporters, failed to induce one-half of the electors of the Province, to go to the polls and record their votes in their favour! I have made the following calculation up with all the care in my power, and will be glad to submit my figures to the scrutiny of my honourable friend. The Unionists contested all but three counties in the Province. In those three I have given the Unionists one-third and two-thirds to the other side. There are about 47,000 voters in the Province. Of them about 10,000 did not go to the polls at all, and of the remainder about 15,000 voted for the Union candidates and 22,000 for their opponents, giving them a majority of about 7,000 in all. But sir, I am not prepared to admit that a majority of the electors have pronounced against the Union or in favour of its repeal. Nay more sir, I am prepared to show the House that my honourable friend himself, and many of his leading supporters, went to the country pledged to give this Union a fair trial. My honourable friend (Mr. H.) at a large meeting at Mason Hall, at Halifax, previous to the elections, said:

*Let us hope that they (the Canadians) will act justly. If they do, we should aid them to work the new system fairly,*

and subsequently referring to the pledge then given the honourable gentleman in a letter addressed to the people of Canada on the 18th of June last, over his own signature said:

*I, having expressed my determination to bow to the paramount authority of Parliament and try the experiment, am not likely to be deterred by necessary forms, etc.*

Mr. Power, one of the members elected to represent the metropolitan constituency of Halifax in this Parliament, gave the following