

the Dominion receive all the benefits of their taxation. A return of the cost of opening up and developing these new districts by the sale of the land might be secured to the province, but Ontario had relinquished such revenue for the sake of building up the Dominion. A reasonable measure of consideration she is entitled to ask in return. (Hear, hear.)

The hon. gentleman asserts that Ontario pays two-thirds of the revenue of the Dominion, and that it is not in her interest to ask any increase of the provincial subsidies; that it would be more profitable for her to raise such additional revenues as may be required by direct taxation. That may be to a certain extent true in the abstract. It is a disadvantage under which Ontario has always been labouring; under which she is suffering to-day. That was the cause of the dissatisfaction before Confederation, and which Mr. Mackenzie hoped Confederation had put an end to; That while Ontario paid more, she received less. The same unfairness is still being pursued. It is to remedy that state of things, the proposal under consideration is made. While the rate per head of customs duties paid by each province may be a matter of dispute, Ontario would have been satisfied if her larger population—about which there could be no dispute—was recognized. The resolutions of the Conference is the first occasion in which Ontario's claim in this respect has been recognized—(cheers)—and yet hon. gentlemen object to it. (Hear, hear.)

It is difficult to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the proportion of customs or excise duty paid by any province. Both the Maritime Provinces and Manitoba contend, that the people of these provinces pay more customs duty per head to-day than do the people of either Quebec or Ontario, and their argument has a measure of logic in it. They say, "While we admit that the people in Ontario and Quebec are wealthier, better off, and spend more per head than our people, yet that these are manufacturing provinces, and that a large portion of that spending, is for goods manufactured in these provinces which pay no duty into the Dominion exchequer." (Opposition hear! hears!) Hon. gentlemen say hear, hear; but if these goods bring nothing into the Federal treasury, they cost just as much to the consumer as if they did, but the extra price does not go into the public chest, but, under the operation of the precious N. P., into the pockets of the combines, the monopolists, the protected manufacturer. (Loud cheers.) The representatives of these provinces, in further support of their argument, say "that their people, not being a manufacturing people, and by reason of distance and cost of carriage being debarred from profitable interchange of commodities with Ontario and Quebec, are by force of circumstances compelled to buy largely of imported goods, and thus contribute more to the Dominion revenue." That argument is to some extent true. Whether it is true to the extent claimed by the representatives of these provinces, may be doubted.

Mr. Norquay, in his budget speech in the Manitoba Legislature in 1884, claimed that the customs collections at the different ports for the period 1874 to 1883 shewed the collections per head of population to be for the nine years: Ontario, \$31.46; Quebec, \$51.65; Nova Scotia, \$34.89; New Brunswick, \$42.10; Manitoba, \$107.62; British Columbia, \$102.76; Prince Edward Island, \$24.14. The collections at the port of entry did not, however, by any means shew where the dutiable goods were consumed, for it was well known that about one-half of the customs collected at the port of Montreal, although credited to Quebec, were on goods forwarded and consumed in Ontario and the other provinces. But admitting that Ontario is still the largest contributor per head, and that provincial subsidies on the basis of population would not be as profitable to her as direct taxation for provincial purposes, still I doubt if any one will contend that, increased subsidies to the other provinces, and direct taxation to Ontario, is for her either profitable or equitable. (Cheers.) Yet that is the existing condition, and I do not recollect that when year after year increased grants have been given to the other provinces, hon. gentlemen ever raised their voice in protest against a practice so unjust to their own province. (Hear, hear.)

It could not be denied that grave dissatisfaction existed in some of the other provinces. One threatened secession, another almost in rebellion. Was it not wise to consider whether some moderate scheme could not be devised to relieve the tension. The fact is, we must recognize the situation, and Ontario must do the best she can under existing conditions. The other provinces will not consent to cease their demands for better terms,