

favor of Confederation now than the day we entered the Union. I believe a majority of the lower Provinces, if they were out of Confederation now, would not enter the Union. There can be no bond of union under the policy of the Government. The only bond of union that cements us—no, I will not say cements us, that holds us together—is a debt of \$250,000,000, which has been rolled up since Confederation, and we have to grin and bear it, for we cannot get out of it, I suppose. The Lower Provinces have suffered most; their trade relations have become so altered that they suffer exceedingly with regard to this matter; and I believe now that, although of those who were opposed to Confederation in those days, many have gone to their reward and others have deserted their post, a few are left, and I believe to-day, that in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the majority of the electors of those two Provinces are with them. I have never heard the hon. gentleman speak in reference to this matter of Confederation until the other night, and from his laudation of Confederation one would think he was always a convert when he talks of this bond of union that cements us together, as the shuttle in the loom weaving us together and cementing us. Where is the cement now? Is there very much harmony in British Columbia? The Chinese war with the whites and the whites war with the Chinese, and a commissioner is sent at the public expense to try and reconcile things there. There is not very much harmony there; they pay per head two or three times as much to the Dominion Treasury as any other part of the Dominion. There is not much harmony. There is a volcano at the bottom; and were it not for the enormous amount of public money being expended there, you would see a different state of things in British Columbia. Is there harmony in the North-West and Manitoba that is binding and cementing the Dominion together? It may be more or less exaggerated; there may be more or less party in the matter; men are not perfect; but have you harmonised that Province by your legislation and by your National Policy? Is not everybody convinced there that your National Policy is wrong? And your policy with regard to the disallowance, and preventing these people from getting local railroads by local taxation, has not that been a bad policy? And in Ontario is there harmony, in view of your interference with the Streams Bill and disallowance of it, which was unjust? I understood that question, and there never was a more righteous and just law than that. No one was injured by that Bill that was disallowed. You failed in that, and that did not cement them. And, in regard to the boundary between the Provinces, did you not have the two Provinces in hostile array with each other in reference to your management of that question? There has been discord by your mode of action, whether owing to the policy or not, all through. And, in regard to Quebec, I do not know that there is much discord there. They have got it all their own way; they may get to fighting among themselves, which I hope they will. I have understood that they are. I have seen the combatants looking at each other like two cats on a rail fence, both wishing to spring but both afraid, because they thought the result might be that they would both fall off. Is there harmony in New Brunswick? Look at St. John. We imported the year before Confederation \$10,000,000 worth of goods. At that time warehouses were well filled, the wharves were lined with ships, and there was activity, business and prosperity. But ever since Confederation St. John has been declining, and to-day it is much worse off than it could possibly have been out of Confederation. That revenue tariff, that low tariff of 15 per cent. that we had, maintained our institutions, and we were in a prosperous condition. I know depression will come from time to time under any system of taxation. But your policy since Confederation has not tended to cement this Union. There are not 5,000,000 of people on earth who

are more at variance with each other than in this Dominion. This Dominion is one of the hardest countries in the world to govern. Its location, its trade relations and its necessities are very difficult to harmonise; they are such as any Government would find it very difficult indeed to satisfy, and no Government can expect to satisfy all. If Confederation is to be a success, that success has got to come in the future, for it has not come yet. The policy of this Government has been a failure, so far as I am able to judge, in almost every particular. Their measures have failed. Is there harmony amongst the licensed victuallers throughout the Dominion? That was an interference, an unjust interference, with provincial rights. Their law has been upset since. Their knowledge of constitutional law seems to be defective. The License Act also comes into conflict with the Scott Act. There is a large class of people throughout the Dominion who want to see the Scott Act have a fair trial, but this License Act comes in and makes that unworkable, and the Government will not remedy it. The License Act itself does not work, and there is nothing works harmoniously in their policy, from beginning to end. Then, down in Nova Scotia, are the people contented? Do you suppose, if there was not a great deal of discontent in Nova Scotia, that any man would lay upon the Table of the Local Legislature the resolutions that have been recently laid there? I do not believe they will carry. I do not believe there is any wisdom in doing it; but that evidently shows there is a great feeling of discontent in Nova Scotia. Take it all in all, Confederation is not a success. I think that picture out in the lobby was quite premature. I think, if the memory of the authors of Confederation is to be handed down to posterity, they ought to wait until they see a little more harmony in their work than can be seen at present, so far as I can observe. The hon. gentlemen opposite promised that every workingman should be employed—well, perhaps not in so many words; but the people were leaving the country for want of work, and they said the Government were flies on the wheel because they could not give them work. Parties in the country were leaving it to find work, and to find a home in a foreign country. But you have not found very much work for the workingman. You have taken a great deal of the workingman's earnings away to bring competitive labor into this country, and I am glad to know that that policy is changed now, and that you do not intend to pay the passages of immigrants to this country in future. There is really too much stress put upon this cry about finding work for men. I know it is a good thing to have a chance to get work when you want it. But men naturally do not want to work just for the fun of it. They want food, clothing and comforts; but they want to get them with as little work as possible. Now, I wonder how much of a compliment the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches would take it if somebody proposed to find them work. Just suppose that such a proposition was made to them; they would not take it as a great compliment. They do not have to work. They toil not, neither do they spin, and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like some of these. Men want a chance to earn their bread and to advance in life, to make their condition in life better, to have something for a rainy day, and something for old age, but they cannot get it under this policy. You are taking all their surplus earnings from them, and you think they are in a good condition because they are not starving, because they have from day to day that which they can barely subsist upon. You have a great many people in this country who have worked from generation to generation, and yet they have got nothing to the good. If you would tax them less and give them an opportunity to get the necessities of life cheaper, they would have a surplus; they would have something with which to indulge in some of the luxuries of life; they could educate their children; they could have some luxuries in