

meal in New York at 35c. a barrel less than before the duty was imposed. He (Mr. Weldon) was a little surprised at the remark, and took the trouble to telegraph to a leading firm in that business in St. John for the purpose of ascertaining the facts, and received a reply which showed that the immediate effect of this tariff with regard to an article of ordinary consumption, was to advance it at once by 27c., and no doubt, in a short time, the advance would be still greater. They had heard a great deal about British connection, and to the effect that this tariff would not interfere with our relations with Great Britain. There was one thing to be said, however—they had only to look at the press in England to find that both parties in that country spoke of the tariff with universal condemnation. They spoke of it more in sorrow than in anger, that principles so unwise should be adopted in Canada. He recollected, when this great scheme of Union was devised, the loyalty of the people was appealed to in its favour because it was said that Great Britain was in favour of it. The feelings of the people in New Brunswick, the descendants of the old Loyalists, were appealed to and asked to come into the Union in deference to the wishes of the Crown. Yet, in this tariff they had a standing defiance to the principles recognised and adopted by the Mother Country. The hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Rykert), speaking of an article in the *Mail* newspaper, said we were not discriminating against the Mother Country, but we were simply fighting for existence against foreigners. And yet here was a tariff which made a difference of 25 per cent. against the Americans, and nearly 40 against English manufacturers. He had observed that in the city of Quebec about a week ago, at a meeting there, Mr. Dobell, a well-known merchant, moved, seconded by Mr. Vallée, "that this meeting regrets that the Government had not been able to discriminate more in favour of the manufacturers of Great Britain as against those of the United States." For all these reasons he was strongly opposed to this tariff, and had felt it his duty most earnestly to protest against it on behalf of the city and county of St. John, whose interests would be disastrously affected by it. Not only his Province, but all

the Maritime Provinces would be injured by it. He considered this tariff was a violation of the compact under which the Maritime Provinces entered into the Confederation. It was only after being assured by the promoters of Confederation that the tariff would not be increased that the Maritime Provinces consented to come in to the Union. He felt that these propositions struck one of the most serious blows that were ever levelled against the industries of those Provinces. He recollected the time when the present hon. Finance Minister consented that the Intercolonial Railway should go by the North Shore and be taken away from St. John, when, to use the language of the hon. member for Halifax, \$8,000,000 was thrown into the sea. St. John city staggered under the blow then dealt her, though she had since recovered. Two years ago, when on the 21st of June, 1877, he returned to St. John, and found his home and the homes of thousands in ruin after the great fire, he thought it was one of the heaviest misfortunes that had ever befallen that city. They had just risen from that conflagration, when this new tariff was proposed, which he did not hesitate to declare was a still more crushing blow than any other the city of St. John and the Province of New Brunswick had ever yet received, and that from the man whom it had been her delight to honour.

MR. SNOWBALL.

April 3rd, 1879.

MR. SNOWBALL said he admitted the task before him was a serious one, and one he would willingly have avoided if possible. No person had had a higher respect for the present Finance Minister than he had. No one had more pleasure than he in seeing that gentleman as he had ascended step by step till he reached the pinnacle of power in his native Province. Referring to the tariff, he said if an enemy had done this, they might have borne it, but for a friend—one in whom they trusted—to come and sow