

we then had was a pretty fair tariff, though it was very easy at that time to show that the people of Nova Scotia and the other Maritime Provinces, were all paying more *per capita* than the people of the other Provinces. At the same time, we had no great reason to complain. There was a desire on the part of the people of Nova Scotia to make the best of Confederation; there was a desire on the part of the people of New Brunswick to make the best of it; and I believe Prince Edward Island intended to make the best of it when she came in; but, Mr. Speaker, the National Policy made a very great change in the feeling of the people towards Confederation, and I am sorry for it. I am as much interested in the Dominion and desire its prosperity as strongly as any hon. gentleman in this House, or any man in this country, and my wish is to see this country prosper from one end to the other. I desire to see all the Provinces in a prosperous condition, consequently I feel in duty bound to tell the Government that their present trade policy is day by day drawing the very life blood from the Maritime Provinces. I do not want to array one Province against another, but I do not want the people of Nova Scotia to suppose that they are being ruined by Confederation; but I do want them to understand that the cause of their unsatisfactory condition at the present time is bad Government and the National Policy; it is because of a protective policy which is not suited to our Province, and which the Minister of Marine educated the people of Nova Scotia up to believe would be ruinous to us.

Mr. McLELAN. Not a protective policy, but a National Policy.

Mr. VAIL. Well, is not this National Policy a protective policy? That is just where the trouble is. If it was a proper National Policy instead of a protective policy the people would not be so opposed to it, but the trouble is, it is a highly protective policy; and the people have never been accustomed to such excessive taxation. The trade returns show that this policy takes more money out of the people of the lower Provinces, according to their population, than it does out of the people of the other Provinces, and thus it works unfairly and unjustly to them. Mr. Speaker, I have extracted from the trade returns some figures showing the amount of duty that we have paid in Nova Scotia since the National Policy came into full operation. We paid in 1880, \$1,298,573, which was about the amount that we paid previous to that time. Now in the first year after that the difference between what was collected in 1880 and in 1881 was \$200,658; in 1882 it was \$459,000; in 1883, \$535,000; in 1884, \$608,600, making in the four years an increase under the National Policy of \$1,803,570. Now, Mr. Speaker, had we imported a larger amount of goods we would have no reason to complain, because we must, as a matter of course, pay a larger amount upon a larger importation. But that is not the case. The value of the dutiable goods we imported in 1884 was only \$6,468,000, and on that sum we paid over \$1,900,000 whereas, in 1879, we only paid \$1,183,000 on \$6,829,000 of dutiable goods imported. I may now, perhaps, refer to the bread tax. This is a heavy tax on the Maritime Provinces, and bears very hardly upon the poorer classes of the people, who pay the largest portion of this tax. The amount collected on corn meal is very large, and we know that that is consumed mostly by the poorer classes, and by the lumbermen and fishermen. Now, the Finance Minister has collected from the poorer classes of the people in Nova Scotia, since the National Policy was introduced, up to the 1st of December, 1884, \$232,000 on breadstuffs alone. That is a very heavy tax, and I did hope, Mr. Speaker, that after the Finance Minister acknowledged that he has taken \$20,000,000 more out of the pockets of the people in the last four or five years than he

Mr. VAIL.

required for the ordinary expenses of the country, that he would to have taken this duty off flour and meal—I may say, off the staff of life—which is such a heavy burthen on the people in the Maritime Provinces. I hope the hon. gentleman will yet see his way clear to do so. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have referred to the protective policy, and I have shown pretty clearly, I think, that it bears hardly upon the Maritime Provinces. I have looked at this report of the commissioner sent down to examine into the industries of Nova Scotia, but I have not been able to extract much information from it. It appears that the commissioner went to Halifax and after that visited only two or three of the central counties, so of course he could not make a very extensive or reliable report. But taking it on the whole, it is not, I suppose, as far as it goes, what I may call a very unfair report. The greatest unfairness about it, I think, is the rather important omission, that he has entirely neglected to tell us how many industries have been closed up since the National Policy was introduced. Now, Mr. Speaker, I pretend to know something about the Province of Nova Scotia, and I have taken some little pains to get information in regard to the position of that Province from one end to the other. I think I know more about it than the commissioner that was sent there, and I can tell the House pretty clearly what changes have been made, how many manufactories have been established and how many have been closed. In Yarmouth, since the protective policy was introduced, they have established a woollen mill, a duck factory, and a knitting factory. I do not know that there has been any industry closed up. In Digby County there has been nothing established since 1878. We had at that time three large tanneries, two within a stone's throw of each other, and a third not more than two miles away. They were all doing a fairly prosperous business up to the introduction of the Protective Policy; they are all closed up now, and there is not a man to be seen about them. In Annapolis County there has been nothing established, and two foundries and one organ factory have been closed. I am not sure, but I think the organ factory was removed to Truro, in the county represented by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries. As regards King's County, I have not been able to get much information, but if there have been any changes made for the better, which I doubt, they have been very slight indeed, and are in no manner due to the Protective Policy. In Hants there was a cotton mill established, which is now running at the expense of the owners of the stock. They have not paid any dividend, I think—so far at all events. Whether they have or not, I am quite sure they have not made a dollar. This last year the factory was closed for some time. I do not know whether it is running now or not.

Mr. ALLISON. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to read from the *Windsor Courier* a statement regarding that factory?

Mr. VAIL. I have no objection to the hon. gentleman interrupting me if I make a misstatement, but unless he can correct me, I think he asks too much, when he asks me to allow him to read the paper now.

Mr. ALLISON. I think that is the best refutation of the statement made by the hon. member.

Mr. VAIL. No doubt what the hon. gentleman says is correct in regard to the newspaper article, but we can't always rely on what appears in the newspapers. I acknowledge that a statement made of the gentleman's own knowledge would be entitled to some weight, and I shall be very glad to receive any explanations he has to make, he may know something in regard to the cotton factory that I do not know; but I know that it has not made any money, and that it was closed for a certain time this autumn, whether