

SPEECHES OF NEW BRUNSWICK MEMBERS

IN OPPOSITION TO THE TARIFF.

MR. KING.

March 27th, 1870.

MR. KING said he intended to consider this National Policy, so called, as it affected some of the principal industries of the Maritime Provinces. He regretted to have to express himself in direct opposition to the principles laid down in the introduction of this tariff by the Minister of Finance. He entertained feelings of the highest respect for that gentleman, and had been in accord with him, socially and politically, for a lifetime. It was true that he had been a moulder of public opinion in his native Province. In matters connected with the temperance movement his name had become a household word. As a temperance man, New Brunswick was proud of him; and if, to-day, the Province was foremost in adopting the Canada Temperance Act, it was fair to say that the hon. gentleman's consistency, as an advocate of temperance and prohibition, was being felt in that movement. It was likewise true, that in the Province of New Brunswick the feeling was largely in favour of a revenue tariff, as opposed to the Protectionist principle. If, to-night, he stood an advocate of Free-trade principles, it was largely due to the fact that he had taken lessons from the hon. gentleman, who, it was safe to assert, had been, during his administration of public affairs, a prominent advocate of those principles. It had been urged that gentlemen from New Brunswick, who had heretofore been followers of the Minister of Finance, should be prepared to support him on this occasion. Did anyone suppose that, if the hon. gentlemen were to effect a change of base on the temperance ques-

tion, those in sympathy with him in that great movement would be expected to go and do likewise? Hon. gentlemen opposite had referred to the honour conferred upon them by members of the late Government visiting their counties, in order to influence the elections. His county had been equally honoured by a visit from the Finance Minister, who came for the purpose of assisting in the selection of one of a number of gentlemen, who were anxious to be sacrificed on the altar of their country, in the interests of the then Opposition. In a speech delivered on that occasion, the Minister of Finance attempted a definition of the so-called National Policy. He informed the audience that it was not intended to increase the taxes of the people, that articles which were not produced in the country would be admitted at a low rate of duty, while protection would be afforded to manufacturers by a readjustment of the tariff, but certainly there would be no increase. He (Mr. King) was proud to be able to say that the great Liberal party in that constituency were not influenced by the statements then and there made, and which had been proved by the introduction of this tariff to have been made without foundation. He had examined the tariff carefully, and was unable to discover anything like a readjustment except in one case where a small reduction had been made on the article of molasses, and a larger amount put upon the article of sugar. It was true that a great many articles which were formerly in the free list were now subject to duty. Among those were flour and cornmeal, which the people were assured by his opponent would not be taxed. He would remind the hon. gentleman that the tax on cornmeal, while it would not stronly