

"the surplus, coming from excise and customs dues, which are paid the consumers, that is by everybody, will be indirectly reimbursed to the contributors. Would not this be one of the best methods of diminishing the public burdens, because with the money so obtained, the Local Governments will be enabled to establish an equilibrium in their respective budgets, all of them more or less heavily burdened, with the exception of that of Ontario. As stated by the *Herald*, the Ottawa Government pretends that it is anxious to diminish the taxation bearing down upon the people. Well, the population of this Province is threatened with direct taxation, and by an increase of the federal subsidy this calamity may be averted, without changing in anything the fiscal policy of the party in power.

"Nothing serious can be opposed to this view. We therefore trust that it will prevail in the Executive Council and in the Parliament of Ottawa. We have already made the remark that the United States before the war have given in this respect a good example which ought to be followed in the interests of all the Provinces and for the welfare of Confederation itself."

When these opinions were written, the *Monde* was as much Tory as it is to-day, but it had at least intervals of intelligence and patriotism, during which it was willing to render justice, even to a political opponent. I regret that now I am deprived of the pleasure of paying it the same compliment.

At all events, these contradictions of the Blue politicians, their petty civil wars, prove that in justice and equity we are right in demanding a readjustment of the Federal subsidy. That is enough for us, and for my part, I concern myself very little with those ridiculous criticisms or with insults inspired by disappointment and party exigencies.

At all events, I claim for the National Government the honor of having first taken the initiative towards serious and practical means of putting an end to the policy of centralization pursued by the Federal Government and to maintain the independence of the Legislature, and of having so far carried that movement, as to cast consternation among all the enemies of provincial rights and among the partisans, secret and open, of Legislative Union. This is already a success of which we may well be proud.