

feeling of every member on his side of the House, when he said that they were proud of the men who occupied the Treasury benches; that the men who formed the present Government were competent to grapple with the great questions of the day. They had, to-day, no fly-on-the-wheel policy.

MR. METHOT said that, at this stage of the discussion, he had no intention of making a long speech; but he believed he owed it to himself, and to his constituency, to put before the House the attitude he wanted to assume in regard to this tariff. Having, for the ten years that he had been in public life, always fought strongly in favour of the principle of Protection, and having had the honour, during the last eighteen months, of being twice elected by overwhelming majorities over his opponents, who were strong Free-traders, he felt, whatsoever might be his feelings against some of the details of the present tariff, that he could not do otherwise than vote for the tariff *en bloc*, as it was now before Parliament. But, in the difficult circumstances in which they were now placed, he wanted it to be well understood that in casting this vote he did not desire it to be taken as a mark of confidence or non-confidence in the hon. gentlemen who now governed this country. He looked at this question from a stronger point of view. He thought it was one of those measures that they must deal with purely in the interest of the whole country, without considering who had brought it forward, or who was opposing it. He must, therefore, after having reserved his opinions, and mode of acting, until the details of this tariff came before the House, declare that he would support, with all his strength, the tariff as it was now before the House.

MR. ROGERS said the proposed tariff indicated a policy so completely at variance with his own views of sound political economy, so utterly inconsistent with the progressive tendencies of the world, and so prejudicial to all the vital interests of Canada, that it was not surprising that all who were not trammelled by election pledges or party alliances, should offer an earnest protest against the infliction. Although the injus-

tice of the measure would apply to the whole Dominion, no Province would feel it more keenly than New Brunswick, and no county in the Province more than Albert, which he had the honour of representing. He need not, therefore, apologise for expressing his dissent from the opinions of the Finance Minister, whatever might be his personal regard for that gentleman. He felt that he would ill discharge his duty if he did not rise, and, at least, in a few words, express his firm protest against an imposition of taxation so fatal to every interest of his constituents. Those interests were very diversified. They included five different classes — farming, lumbering, mining, shipping, and, to some extent, fishing. These interests were variously intermixed, and all were more or less dependent on each other. The division of labour had not reached such a state of perfection there as in the older Provinces. While the farmers of his county were dependent on the soil for their subsistence in the raising of a variety of products, their surplus consisted mostly of cattle and dairy products, hay, oats and potatoes. There was no import of these articles to speak of, and even a prohibition of foreign farm products would not help their prices. Much of their products were sold in Boston, New York, and other American cities, thus giving employment to coasting vessels, which could only carry such cargoes at low rates with a prospect of return freights of cornmeal, flour, coal and other merchandise, and any restriction on this trade would at once injure the farming interest by the increased cost of importation, while the advance on all the necessaries of life which the farmer must buy would add greatly to their present depressed condition. Flour and meal, so far as required, would be higher at certain seasons, when the advantage of an overstocked New York market, combined with a nominal rate of freight, could be secured. They imported a large quantity of cornmeal, the duty on which must add to their taxation. By comparing the imports into New Brunswick, of last year, which were 65,919 bbls., it would be found the duty would be \$26,367, while the duty on the corn imported would be \$1,673, making in all \$28,040. Sugar also, and even tea, would be found