

Hon. Mr. SMITH—Only against the tariff.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—The tariff is everything.

Hon. Mr. SMITH—Perhaps the hon. gentleman will allow me to make an explanation. The public meetings were called, and not unnaturally so, to denounce the increase in the tariff, not with regard to the management of the railways.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—There is in the House a gentleman, and he is a supporter of the Government, who attended these meetings and denounced the policy of cruel oppression pursued by Mr. BRYDGES. I say "cruel oppression," and I will show, too, that the country is injured. I feel keenly on this point. Everybody knows that I incurred obloquy by leading Nova Scotia into Confederation, and every opponent of union has been triumphant at the realization of their anticipations, and now declares: "Did we not say that Ontario would send down officials to grind down the people of the Maritime Provinces, irrespective of their rights." When the Government sends down a man who rode rough-shod over the people of the Maritime Provinces, they were not only doing an injury to those Provinces, but also to Ontario and Quebec, because their action contradicts the statement I made to my constituents—that they could confidently rely on the sense of justice and honor of the people of those great Provinces to act rightly towards the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. When the late Mr. JOSEPH HOWE proposed the policy of constructing the railways in Nova Scotia, which policy was subsequently adopted in New Brunswick, it was not done with a view to constructing railways, to be conducted on what Mr. BRYDGES calls commercial principles. The people of the country were invited to take their own money out of the public treasury to defray the cost of constructing the railways, not looking to be recompensed from the receipts, but looking for a satisfactory return in the increased trade and revenue of the country. That policy had been eminently successful, and its success is proved by the largely increased revenues flowing into the Dominion Treasury from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT—If the hon. gentleman wishes to know, I may say

*Hon. Mr. Smith.*

that the expenditure is one million more than the receipts.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—The increased revenue goes into the Dominion Treasury. Did not Canada give twenty millions of dollars to the Grand Trunk Railway to foster and cheapen transportation through Ontario and Quebec, and yet the Government does not seek to operate the road on commercial principles, or obtain any revenue therefrom. Is it, then, right or fair, if it could be done to oppress the Maritime Provinces by endeavoring to enforce upon them a tariff which was never before contemplated. Instead of there being always a deficit from the railways, the deficit is only temporary. The time will come when the working expenses will be absolutely covered by the receipts. What has Mr. BRYDGES done? He went down to the Maritime Provinces and rode rough-shod over every interest existing there. Nothing was right from beginning to end—everything must be changed. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries knows that the proposals Mr. BRYDGES made from one end of the lines to the other failed and changes have to be made not once but twice. I say Mr. BRYDGES' administration has been an entire failure as regards results obtained. There is less money in the Dominion Treasury to-day than there would have been if Mr. BRYDGES had never visited the road. Under the old tariff more money would have been received than was now derived under the present one. The adoption of his policy drove the agriculturalists off the line of railway, and they who previously carried their goods to market by rail, now carried them in sleighs. Every interest has been injured. In my own county the farmers, relying on the good faith of the Government, made contracts for the delivery of hay in Halifax, 130 miles distant. Every contract has had to be carried out at a large loss to the contractors, because without giving one hour's notice the additional charges were imposed, thus changing a profitable transaction into a losing one. Along those lines of railways various industries have grown up, and the people wake up on one fine morning to find that this man (Mr. BRYDGES) sent by the hon. Minister of Public Works to grind down the people of the Maritime Provinces, had suddenly sprung a tariff upon