

laughter.) The way the mistake—to use the mildest expression—was made, was simple enough. The vessels were offered at the Custom Houses every time they came in and left port, and as some of them came in port 200 times in the year, as at Toronto, for instance, their tonnage was counted 200 times. It was easy in this way to run up our inland marine to seven millions of tons.

Now, Sir, this is the way the advocates of Union endeavor to deceive the people of the Lower Provinces. Even the Hon. Mr. Tilley is not altogether innocent on this point. And in this Island, too, deception has been attempted. The famous speech of the late leader of the Government at the dinner of the Canadian Club, was an illustration of this, for he spoke of the taxation by the municipal boards in Upper Canada as of no account, whereas we know it is in a great measure levied for local requirements such as are here defrayed out of the public chest. Then again the Colonial Secretary came out with a new table of figures every few days, showing that the gain to the Colony by Confederation was to be so and so. But, Sir, their efforts to delude the people did not meet with much success here. Some of the young men of the Anti-union press are as well posted up in figures as their opponents, and have done good service to the country by showing up the fallacies of the Union advocates. In spite of all that those in favor of Confederation can say, it is clear that our taxes will be increased. Before all the expenses which Union will inevitably bring with it can be met, probably even the present high tariff of Canada will require to be raised. Then what will the party in Britain say who advocate a separation of the Colonies from the Mother Country on the ground of their expense? They would indignantly enquire: Are our people to continue paying taxes to protect these Colonists who are doing all in their power to injure our trade by levying still heavier duties upon our manufactures? Sir, I would prefer free trade with England, the land of my fathers, to free trade with Canada. If we are to give any privileges let them be accorded to those who have protected us in times past, and not to those who never did anything of the kind. If we are to pay any sum for defences let it be given to the Mother Country, which can protect us, and not to Canada that is quite unable to protect herself. I am much mistaken if Great Britain would allow the Provinces to impose high duties on British goods; and if this were the case they would then have to resort to direct taxation. But I now come to a point respecting which a good deal has been said, namely, the alteration of the Report by the Canadians. I have here before me three copies of the Report, and they are all different. In the first copy sent down here, which was signed by Sir E. P. Tache, the President of the Conference, the 24th section reads thus:—

“24 The local Legislature of each Province may from time to time alter the Electoral Districts for the purpose of Representation in the House of Commons, and distribute the Representatives to which the Province is entitled in any manner such Legislature may think fit.”

In another copy which I received since, and which is the same as that laid before the Canadian Legislature, the section has been altered to read as follows:—

“24. The local Legislature of each Province may from time to time alter the Electoral Districts for the purpose of Representation in such Legislature, and distribute the Representatives to which the Province is entitled in such local Legislature in any manner such Legislature may see fit.”

Now, Sir, this is a very material alteration in a very important clause, and does not say much for our safety should we place ourselves in the power of the Canadians by entering Confederation. It has been said in justification of the alteration that the section referred entirely to the Local Legislatures, and therefore the rendering in the clause as it first stood was evidently an oversight. This apology, however, is unsatisfactory, as the 24th section is not in that part of the Report which relates to the Local Legislatures, but in that which lays down the constitution of the House of Commons. I may say that a dispute arose as to whether the General Legislature should be allowed to arrange the constituencies, and it was understood that this power should be left to the Local Legislatures. When the delegates for this Island contended for 6 members in the House of Commons instead of 5, our chief argument was that if we were allowed 6 representatives, it would render it an easy matter to divide the electoral districts between the three Counties. The Hon. Attorney General brought forward this proposition, and when it

was decided against us, and the principle of representation by population strictly adhered to, I was particular in noticing that the right of distributing the representatives to which each Colony would be entitled, should be left with the Local Legislatures, because I considered such a provision would afford us some protection, by placing it beyond the power of the Canadians to divide the constituencies in order to carry their own objects. Judge of my surprise, therefore, at receiving three or four weeks after my return home, a letter from Mr. Bernard, Secretary to the Conference, and who is also Clerk of the Executive Council of Canada; a letter, enclosing a copy with the 24th section altered as I have stated, and explaining that the alteration had been made because the wording of the section in the first copy was an accidental departure from the views of the Conference. But I have lately received another copy in which there is an alteration in favor of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, providing that the former shall be allowed to impose an export duty on coal, and the latter on timber and logs, which special reservation was not in the copy laid before this House. This alteration, I consider, is equally as culpable as the other. What right, I ask, had the Canadian Government to alter one word of the document after it was signed? They might almost as well change the whole Report to suit their own particular views. I wish also to show that this Report, as a whole, does not place Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in such an unfavorable position as this Island. These Provinces have large local revenues, that of Nova Scotia in 1863, being, as shown by Mr. Galt in his speech at Sherbrooke, \$107,000, and that of New Brunswick in the same year \$9,000. He sets down the local revenues of this Colony at \$31,000; but I am at a loss to know how he made up that sum unless he included in the amount the instalments paid in during the year from the sales under the Land Purchase Act. This money, however, forms no part of our local revenues; it is all required to make up the price paid by the Government for the proprietors' estates which have been purchased. In the neighboring Provinces the case is different; their public lands are Crown lands, the sale of which brings in a large revenue, that will be wholly available for sectional purposes. Taking into consideration also that these Provinces are to receive 80 cents per head for their local wants as well as this Island, and that New Brunswick is guaranteed a subsidy besides, they are tolerably well provided for. But Canada will fare still better. Her local revenues in 1863, as given by Hon. Mr. Galt, were \$1,297,943; and the allowance of 80 cents per head of her population would yield her about \$2,000,000, which will just be \$2,000,000 more than she now expends out of the public funds for local purposes. This Island hitherto has almost solely relied on her customs' revenue, and therefore it is that with the small per capita allowance of 80 cents, we would be unable to carry on the local government without resorting to direct taxation. We are even prevented from levying an export duty on our produce, while this privilege is allowed Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on certain articles. Taking all these points into consideration, I think it is clear that the Report before us is not such as should be adopted by this House. To enter such a Confederation as is here proposed would evidently prove ruinous to the Colony. If a change is thought desirable, I consider it would be more for our advantage to have a representation in the British Parliament, and to pay a per centage to the Imperial Government out of our revenue for any purpose they may think proper. I believe that one representative there would secure for us a greater share of justice than we are ever likely to receive from a federal legislature in Canada. Should Confederation take place, I believe that in a very few years the people under it will be as heavily taxed as the people of the United States are now at the termination of a civil war. I shall vote for the resolutions submitted by the hon. leader of the Government, and trust they will receive the support of a large majority of this House; also that an Address to Her Majesty will be passed, showing the true position of this Colony in regard to the Confederation scheme. (Prolonged cheers.)

After a few remarks by Hon. members who had already spoken, the motion was put on the amendment submitted by Hon. J. C. Pope in lieu of the resolutions approving of the Quebec Report, proposed by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, which amendment was carried on the following Division:

For the Amendment—Hon. Messrs. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Laird, Davies, Kaye, Coles, Kelly, Hensley, Thornton, Warburton, Beaton, Messrs. Ramsay, Montgomery, Yeo, Duncan,