

member for Cumberland is much more unkind in charging him with accepting and holding so long as possible an office which he thinks the public necessities do not require. Nay, more, the honourable member is unkind to himself, as he came here from Nova Scotia to assist in the formation of the Cabinet, and aided in creating these two offices. But the people of Nova Scotia believe that while an increased expenditure will be made in the general administration, that it will bear especially hard upon them under the lowest tariff of the Confederated Provinces. We raised a larger revenue per head of the population than any of the others, and we see that when our tariff is made equal to the others, we shall be taxed out of all proportion for the maintenance of the General Government. Taking the importations of Nova Scotia for a year, and applying to them the tariff of Canada, we found it gave an increase of about fifty per cent. or \$633,000, for which the people see no just return. Not only was it evident that there would be this increase of taxation for general purposes, but the allowance for local purposes fell short of what the people had all along been accustomed to. Our revenue, even with the low tariff was sufficient to provide for the necessary Public Works, and maintain all those local services of the country which here are provided for by the counties, and in consequence our direct taxation was a mere trifle. Last year our Legislature gave for the maintenance of roads and bridges nearly double the sum that you here in this great country were able to provide, but under this arrangement our local expenditure will have to be reduced from two dollars a head to about one dollar twelve cents. Our grants for roads and for education last year, were within two thousand dollars of what our whole local revenue would have been under Confederation. To these and other points, on which we feel the injustice of the terms to which we are compelled, at least for a time, to submit, may be attributed the result of the election in Nova Scotia. The honourable member for Cumberland tells the House that there are advantages which Nova Scotia will reap in this Confederation; I have only to say that he entirely failed to convince the people of Nova Scotia of any real and substantial benefits. He speaks of the development of our mining, and the promotion of our commercial interests. Turning to the official returns from our mines, we find the argument against him. In 1863 we raised 429,351 tons of coal, and in 1865, 651,220 tons, an increase of 221,869 tons, and in that year, 1865, only sent to Canada 21,000 tons, and the

trade in coal as free, as it can be under Confederation; in the first year of which there has been a falling off of 300,000 tons. I do not, however, mean to attribute this to Confederation, I only wish to show that the development of our coal interest is affected by influences entirely outside of Canada. And then how is Confederation to benefit our commercial interests? How is it to promote our greatest interest, our shipping? It has been stated in this debate that proportionate to our population we are the greatest ship-owning people on the globe; but does this country tend very largely to furnish them employment? We have probably more ships in the Port of Calcutta, in any day of the year, than we have in all the ports of Canada. We do not deny to your people a fair share of commercial energy and enterprise, but it has its own peculiar channels, and is occupied about the interests found within the country; interests which differ materially from ours, and when the proposition is made to place our commercial interests under your control, for the purpose, as the honourable member says, of developing it, an idea of the ridiculous presents itself to the mind such as one feels in seeing a hen appointed stepmother to a flock of ducks. The natural instincts of the one are inland, that of the others out upon the waters. True, you have abundances of waters for the transit of the products of your country, and could you only exchange your magnificent lakes, your great rolling rivers and lay like Nova Scotia in the warm embrace of the great Atlantic; could you feel all through the year the ceaseless throb of the mighty ocean quickening and strengthening in all your arteries, the pulsations of trade and commerce, then might we believe that an alliance with you would tend to stimulate and foster our commercial interests. But five months out of twelve your rivers and lakes are frozen and impassable, while Nova Scotia has ever round about her, is ever clasped in the arms of the sea, and, therefore, if she is to have a nursing mother for her trade and commerce it must be "a Kingdom down by the sea,"

—the open and the free,  
The ever, ever sounding sea.

Free trade among the Provinces has been spoken of as one of the advantages to follow Confederation. If it were desirable to have the free trade enlarged it could have been easily arranged by the several Governments. The honourable member for Cumberland has reminded the House that we are to receive great benefits from the Intercolonial Railway.