

people, while the people of the Maritime Provinces were an economical people, and that, therefore, the latter would be placed in a very awkward position, and become corrupt when brought into contact with the extravagant people of the upper Province; further, he objected to Confederation, because Nova Scotia's interests would be sacrificed and her position in this House would be that of begging for what was her just due without being able to demand it. This Mr. McLelan—of course I will not say, for the moment, that it was my hon. friend opposite—said:

"The fact that the interests of the Provinces are so diversified that each has its own interests; and its centre of interests within itself precludes the possibility of a federal union being formed to work harmoniously."

If I understood the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the other night, he said, I think, that everything now was working harmoniously; Then he says again:

"Under Confederation we shall be placed under the same tariff, and the delegates had not looked to the effect of this increase of tariff. It must be evident to all that whilst we import \$16.26"—

I want the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Customs to take a note of this—

"per head of dutiable goods, while Canada only imports \$9.33 per head, we shall pay into the general revenue nearly double the amount paid by the population of Canada. We are larger importers, not only because of our pursuits, but because we have the means of paying for more goods."

You see he thought Nova Scotia was a very rich Province, while Canada was a very poor one. Then again—he grows a little more eloquent here—he says:

"I cannot conceive a more degraded or humiliating position than the representatives of a spirited people compelled to forego their political opinions—their conscientious convictions on all public questions—in order to obtain for their people a consideration in the distribution of the funds. But even supposing our nineteen representatives could so far forget themselves as to turn political hucksters and offer to sell themselves, body and soul, they will never obtain more than a few pickings from the public chest, which we shall do more than our share in filling. Under any circumstances, however humiliating, we shall be powerless to enforce a just consideration of our interests."

Has Mr. McLelan changed his mind, I wonder, before this? I am not, of course, alluding to the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Then, again, he goes on very pointedly, and puts down 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on:

"1st. We surrender the entire control of the constitution of this country.

"2nd. We endanger the harmony existing among us as fellow colonists by bringing our diverse interests into conflict.

"3rd. We reduce our local expenditure for roads and bridges to a large amount, or supply that deficiency by direct taxation.

"4th. We subject ourselves to the annoyance and tax of the Stamp Act.

"5th. We surrender to Canada the power to tax us to any extent their extravagance may render necessary, and which I have shown you in the outset, \$782,560 (per annum, I suppose)."

A little further on he says:

"Confederation instead of extending the commerce of the country will rather cripple trade. I have already shown that Confederation must necessarily impose on us a very heavy tariff and exceedingly large burthens. The consequence of this will be to increase the cost of living and producing the articles of export. And when you increase the cost of living"—

Listen to this. This is very important just now—

"and of wages, you are unable to compete with other countries in the sale of your coal and fish and other articles of which Nova Scotia is especially calculated to produce."

Well, that is pretty strong language, and it was very pointed at that time. I shall only refer to one other paragraph, because it is not worth while to take up the time, though I have the volume here and might read on for half an hour. He says:

"The House has now before it its death warrant, and while we may not hope to see it die like a Christian, it should at least imitate the Indian savage who sings his death song with calmness and dignity, in the belief that he is about to enter the happy hunting grounds, and in like manner did I expect to see the advocates of this proposition sing the death song, inasmuch as it will give them the entrance to Canada, the 'happy hunting ground,' for office-seekers."

Does my hon. friend recognise this Mr. McLelan of 1865? in the person of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Well, that Mr. McLelan did find the happy hunting ground of office. No sooner was Confederation carried than he joined Mr. Howe in a delegation to Ottawa for better terms. That resulted in getting an advance annually for the Province of Nova Scotia, and gave my hon. friend the Minister of Marine a seat in the Senate and a commissionership on the Intercolonial Railway board. My hon. friend filled the position until after my friend the member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie) came in, when the Board of Commissioners was done away with. My friend remained out of office for a certain time, but he was uneasy, and the time very soon came, in 1878, when he was enabled to do his part in inducing the people of Nova Scotia to accept a policy which he had told them, in the strongest language, and over and over again, would be ruinous to the best interests of the Province he is the sole representative of in the Cabinet. He has been in the Cabinet some time, and I have never heard him venture to make a speech touching upon this question until his speech the other day. I am sorry he has had to go back upon his former record. I am sorry he was not in a position at all events, if he had gone back on his record, to tell the House that he was mistaken in his views, that he was the representative of a Province which, although he had said it would be under great disadvantages in the Confederation, was now in a good position, that he had been mistaken in regard to the trade policy which was required for that Province, but had changed his mind, and now had good reasons to believe that the protective policy was an advantageous policy for the Province he represents. I hoped he would be in a position to go from one end of that Province to the other, and point out where this National Policy has been of advantage to the country. But he did not do it. He scarcely referred to Nova Scotia. You would hardly have supposed he ever saw Nova Scotia, that he had any interest in Nova Scotia, much less that he was the sole representative in the Cabinet of the Province of Nova Scotia. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries—I am sure he will allow me to call him that, may retort on me to some extent and say: You were an anti-confederate too. Well, there is some truth in that, but my position in regard to Confederation was exactly this—I am not ashamed that all the world should know it. When Confederation was first spoken of, and the delegates met to arrange it, I said that, I could not see any advantage in it from a Provincial standpoint, but if it was the wish of the British Government and would strengthen the British Empire, and if I could be shown a scheme under which all the Provinces could be protected, I thought we were in duty bound to accept it, but I must first know whether the smaller Provinces would be properly protected in the Confederation and would have sufficient funds to carry out their local expenditures. When the Quebec scheme was framed, as every man knows in this House, who studied the subject at all, the smaller Provinces were entirely sacrificed, they were placed entirely at the mercy of the Upper Provinces, and while their taxation would be largely increased they would not have more than half enough money to carry on their local works. When I saw that, I objected to Confederation, and I continued my objection until we got the better terms after we were confederated; and then I said, in my place in the House of Assembly: We have got better terms, we have got all we can for the present though we may get more by-and-bye, and I think we are bound to accept the better terms as an instalment and give Confederation a trial. Would anyone say that I took an improper course? Have not subsequent events shown that I was right in the course I took? I am glad to say that the Provinces were getting along very well up to 1879. There was no real cause of complaint. The tariff