

with controlling the management of the Post Office, when the Postmaster General had merely referred to me because I was immediately interested in the subject. The post rides referred to are those running through to Baddeck and affecting Mabou, Wycocomagh and Plaster Cove, and I ask what right or business one of the members for Victoria had to interfere and ask for a change in matters relating to my own county without consulting me? I should like to pay some attention to the gentlemanly speech of the hon. member for Queens, Mr. Freeman, but the abundant field for remark with which others have furnished me has left little time to delay. But he made one remark which was very true and for which I thank him. He told us that in six years Canada had increased in population by 582,000 persons. Is this the wild howling wilderness that we have heard of? Has this been going on in the backwoods about which the changes have been rung from one end of the country to the other? In six years its increase has been larger than the whole population of Nova Scotia. This is the terrible country with which we are connected, and which is hanging like a millstone about our necks. I thank the hon. member for the illustration, and I feel that when he comes to reflect upon it he will see that a very great deal of the contumely that has been heaped upon Canada is undeserved, because she is a great and growing country. In reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Halifax, Mr. Cochran, concerning the feeling in the city, I will merely say that my observations were made in answer to some remarks about a great change having taken place in public opinion here, and about the return of five Anti-Confederate members being a proof that a large majority of this constituency were unfavorable to union. I said that, as I was informed, the city had thrown a considerable majority in favor of Confederation—to that his colleague assented, but I did not say, and I should be sorry to say, that the whole wealth and intelligence of the metropolis were with us. I will say nothing of the influences which he spoke of further than to remark that I have seen such assertions as he made here denied most emphatically. I would be sorry to intimate that the hon. gentleman would say anything that he does not know to be true, but when he says that the Dominion authorities sent down a despatch telling the employees to vote for the Union candidates on pain of dismissal, I take leave to tell him that I wish the assertion to be proved. Mr. Tilley denied it in the most clear terms, and if the proof can be given, I take it for granted that it will be produced, but until then I take the liberty of denying the assertion.

I had nearly forgotten to notice the speech of the Provincial Secretary, who, contrary to the usage of members of Government, of putting themselves in the forefront of the battle, waited until nearly all the ammunition had been expended and nearly all the guns had been fired off, and then came to the rescue by giving to the House his version of the subject. He told us that he was once a Unionist. I am very sorry for his pervers-

sion, and as some of his followers have held out the flag of truce to me, saying, "come with us, and we will do thee good," I feel inclined to say the same to him, more especially as he should have been led by manly, British feeling to come to the aid of one who was being pitched into by some dozen of his opponents. The Provincial Secretary said that our harbors are open all the year round, while those of Canada are closed in winter, and that therefore our condition was not suitable for a Union. I can understand a gentleman living on the South Shore talking in that way, but if he came with me to visit the ports on the Gulf of St. Lawrence—some of them the finest in this Province—he would find it hard to discover an open harbor in winter. Where, in the fine County of Pictou, is there an open harbor? Has Sydney an open harbor? Then going around by Wallace, Pugwash, Windsor and Hantsport, and the other ports on the Bay of Fundy, he would find the harbors all closed. Yet he says that the Union is unsuitable because our ports are open and those of Canada closed. We would do well enough, the Provincial Secretary thinks, united to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and yet the ports of the Island are closed until May. As to New Brunswick, it is true that a considerable coast is open, but the most flourishing parts are closed for six months. What, then, becomes of his argument?

He told us also that the figures prepared by Mr. Johnston were calculated to deceive, and that we are to lose by Confederation \$480,000 this year. I will not say that the figures of the Provincial Secretary were calculated for the purpose of deception, but how did he arrange them? All that is due on the Provincial building was charged against next year, when he knows that that is a part of the public debt. The building represents its whole cost; if the Dominion takes it the building will be set down at its cost, and the balance will be paid out of the Dominion treasury; and I ask then why, instead of that being credited, it was charged against our revenues? I do not care whether you call it £40,000 or the building, if we hand it over to Canada we must get credit for it, and therefore I say that a great mistake was made in charging the balance against next year's revenue. But what more? The Province has to provide two-thirds of the cost of a new Poors' Asylum; but by what jugglery can the Provincial Secretary charge the whole cost against next year's income? The cost is to be scattered over several years, or will be merely interest-bearing debt.

The next observation of the hon. gentleman was that the Quebec Scheme was better than the new arrangement, because it gave the Local Legislatures the right to tax our exports. I am thankful that the delegates had wisdom enough to take away that power, because if there be any one duty more hurtful and detestable than another it is an export duty. New Brunswick, it is true, has an export duty of one shilling per ton on timber, and we have a royalty of sixpence per ton on coal, but we should be exceedingly glad that the possibility of any increased tax