

he hoped to retain the attention of the House for a short time that he might present a few facts and figures which he thought would be somewhat new and interesting on this important question now under debate, a question which he believed every hon. member should take a deep interest in, since it involved a further taxation of no less a sum than some three more million dollars, on an already heavily taxed people. He said it was true the portion of the Tariff and Excise to which he would especially direct their attention is a portion somewhat treated with an amount of levity and indifference that was somewhat to be regretted. Hon. gentlemen seemed to be quite indifferent as regarded taxation on the people of this country so long as it was placed directly on what is known as the Spirit and Tobacco portion of the Tariff. He could not quite agree with them in this view, he thought the forces of excessive taxation to a people might be arrived at as effectually through this medium, as by others less popular, especially as he thought he could clearly show that the Lower Provinces of this Dominion are clearly the sufferers in this case. By a careful examination of the duties paid the several Provinces he found that either Nova Scotia or New Brunswick paid more per head on foreign liquors than Ontario or Quebec. He believed they also paid more on domestic liquors. Under the head Brandy he found New Brunswick paid duty last year \$97 153.72; Ontario only \$89,274.47. On Geneva New Brunswick paid \$95,146.86; Ontario \$34,462.11. On whiskey New Brunswick \$54,553.60; Ontario, \$18,321.01. And so on, and even uniting Quebec and Ontario as against Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, he found a vast difference against New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as any gentleman may see by comparing the returns. He could also point out the large amount paid into the Excise Department by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia for spirit, &c., that is leeching the vitals out of the West India trade of those Provinces for Rums of a superior quality taken by them in return for fish, &c. He found also by comparing the trade returns for United Canada during the six years preceding Confederation the average to be \$34,815,465, whereas the average for the six years succeeding Confederation amounts to an average of \$163,436,588, clearly showing that a union with the Lower Provinces is no loss to the trade relations obtained by Confederation with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. But now he could bring their attention to a vital point. Before Confederation it was pro-

mised to New Brunswick by the promoters of that scheme that all the advantages of Union would be given the people, including the Intercolonial Railway through that Province under no greater taxation to the population than some \$3 75 per head, whereas the present tariff asks from them 26,000,000 of dollars from 4,000,000 of people, or in other words \$6.50 per head. Might he not say then, had they not broken faith with New Brunswick, and at what stage will this taxation stop, especially in view of the fact, that is well known to all this Dominion, that the present gentlemen who occupy the treasury benches and known in this country as the great reform party have obtained power from the delusive war cry of *retrenchment*, and the lessening of taxation if the people would confide in them that power they so long desired. He would say no more but allow this Dominion to decide the matter with these gentlemen. In doing so he frankly thought they would not be satisfied with the reasons given by them, "That we are not yet taxed as highly as the United States, or other countries." To him this reply, and poor argument was simply the reply of gentlemen who plainly are not statesmen, for to statesmen the great object should be to keep this a cheap country to live in, and hence induce over taxed people to come and settle amongst us, and thereby increase our exchequer without increasing our individual taxation. He would farther say the people are deceived, as he seriously believed they expected a reduction of taxation from these reform gentlemen instead of an *increase*. There is no article on which might be expected an advance of duty except on wines, and here he would say after several attempts at tariff making that which they intended to increase they have succeeded in reducing below every thing that is reasonable, especially in view of the fact that wines that will cost some \$4 per gallon will now only pay sixty cents, if not got in even at 30cts, whilst the liquors of the poor have to contribute to the revenue from one hundred, to one hundred and fifty per cent. He would further remark, that to make matters even worse, and notwithstanding the modest declaration of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who introduced this tariff into this House, "that the Government took time and prepared this measure with great care," he was of opinion that this wine duty, after all their care and hatching, cannot be collected without involving more expense in doing so than the whole thing is worth. He would simply ask the Government how