

We had now an advantage over the United States, because the cost of living was cheaper here, and he wished we could remain so without enhancing the prices to consumers. Under no other circumstances could we compete with the United States. A great deal had been said about the result of Protection in that country. The fact was, if there was any nation that could afford to set up a fiscal Chinese wall, the United States could. They had every variety of soil, climate and productions. They could produce almost everything they required, and had within themselves all the commodities they needed, having a great advantage over Canada in this respect. Besides, their population was ten to one of ours. It was well known that to manufacture cheaply we must manufacture largely, and we had not a market large enough to encourage extensive manufactures. There were some industries in which one large factory would supply the whole Dominion. Under a high Protective system in both countries, our neighbours would have decidedly and entirely the advantage over us, and we could not compete with them, and yet our manufacturers with these advantages had been more prosperous under our low tariff than those of the United States under their high Protective tariff. It was to the interest of the large mass of consumers to buy wherever they chose without any trammels. Having made our money, we should be permitted to get as much as possible for it. He could not, for the life of him, outside of a political reason, understand why this tariff had been inaugurated. It was said that, if it did not prove satisfactory, we could change it. But it was well known that nothing was more injurious to business than this constant tinkering with the tariff. The manufacturers of the country required a settled tariff upon which they could base their calculations. Without a permanent tariff, they would not run the risk of making large investments for manufacturing purposes. But it had been said the people desired this tariff, and that the question had been settled by them on the 17th September last. He entirely dissented from this. It had been shown, and the fact was, that they were not consulted.

In one part of the Dominion, gentlemen opposite had favoured Protection when before the electors, and in another Free-trade. If the Liberal candidates mentioned in New Brunswick the probability of the gentlemen opposite introducing Protection, it was at once denied, as in the telegram to Mr. Boyd. In Prince Edward Island, as in New Brunswick, the candidates of gentlemen opposite had talked Free-trade. Had they done otherwise, had a single one of them, or all of them, come out as advocates of such Protection as was now proposed, not a single Conservative would have been returned to Parliament from that section. But not one of them dared to do so. He (Mr. Burpee) did, in fact, believe that the duties on flour and coal would be re-enacted, and had told his constituents so, but he did not venture to say that they would dare to propose the present rates of duties. He did not think the Finance Minister would have the nerve to propose it or be a party to it. They had been told before Confederation that a revenue of thirteen millions would be sufficient for all purposes of the Confederation for twenty-five years to come. He (Mr. Burpee) recollected very well listening to a speech delivered by the Finance Minister in his (Mr. Burpee's) own neighbourhood, in which that gentleman grew eloquent over the statement that thirteen millions would be sufficient, and went on to state that \$2.75 per head would be all they would have to pay to the Federal Government. He told them there was no danger of their being swamped by the larger Provinces. He had then stated that, in the Dominion, on all questions of a moral character, the Maritime Provinces would have the support of Ontario, while on all questions affecting fiscal arrangements the Maritime interests would run parallel with Quebec, and they would have the support of that Province, and that in any case they would be in the majority and hold the balance of power. He (Mr. Burpee) had not believed he would ever see the day when the Finance Minister would bring in a tariff to tax them \$9 per head instead of \$2.75, and would be selected to lead the Conservatives of Ontario to assail and destroy the best interests of New Brunswick, which he had as-

M
indic
ance
econ
progr
so pr
Can
all w
pled
offer
the
tice
the w