

shape of permanent works of military defence, competent authority has declared that not less than £7,145,000 sterling will be required. In view of those considerations, and looking at the vastness of money which, under the terms of the Report, is contemplated to be expended in the building of Railways and Canals and other Public Works; I am of opinion that if we should cast in our lot with Canada, instead of witnessing a reduction of her present tariff from 60 to 40 per cent, as intimated by the advocates of Confederation, we should see it largely increased. In fact the only argument on which the probability of the supposed reduction of the tariff in that the Lower Provinces would consume a much larger amount of dutiable articles than they do at present, I maintain that it is a reasonable inference that the tariff of the United Kingdom, under Confederation, rise instead of falling; and Canada's exports being of a similar character to those which it returns, Canada's duties in abundance, the idea of mutual interchange of commodities is chimerical, and the only result on our people from Confederation would be direct taxation, which would be necessary to raise the revenue, or taxation of which we would have to assume. This question, however, should be decided from the single stand point of the individual Colony to be affected by it, and therefore I do not, as one of the representatives of Prince Edward Island, regard the expression of public opinion which has been elicited on it in the neighboring Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It is our duty to deal with it as it affects ourselves. The Colonies I maintain I have believed are terribly vitiated with reference to Canada in a manner very different from this Island, and therefore arguments which, as that account might be used in those Colonies in favor of the project, cannot hold or apply here. As a representative of Prince Edward Island I feel it my duty non-solicitously to record my solemn protest against the principles and terms of a Union which, in my judgment, would prove most injurious to the best interests of this my native country.

Mr. SINCLAIR.—The advocates of Union can easily occupy time in speaking on this question. Extensive railways, large canals, and cities springing rapidly into existence is such a beautiful and glowing picture that it forms a theme on which they can expatiate at pleasure. But, Mr. Speaker, when we seek to examine the picture it is found to be nothing but dreams and vanishes away. I think it would be most detrimental to the interests of Prince Edward Island to enter the proposed Union. But still I am open to conviction. I have, however, listened to the able speeches of the advocates of Confederation without my opinion being changed—without being able to think otherwise than that Union with Canada would ruin the Island politically and financially. One great argument of the friends of Union is the "glory argument." It would, say they, open up a wide field for our young men. This Colony, however, small as it is, might send forth talented individuals from among her sons. It is true greatness to produce great men. We might belong to Russia with her vast territories, but would that make us great! What is it that leads Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen to be proud of their respective countries? It is because they have been distinguished by many great men. And this Island might be the same. I am proud of being descended from British ancestors, but I am proud also of being an Islander. (Hear, hear.) I believe that the people of Prince Edward Island can take their position beside the people of any country in the globe. There is nothing in her present situation to prevent her sons from rising in the world. It is argued further that by doing away with hostile tariffs this Colony will make great strides in improvement. I do not admit that we have hostile tariffs. The view I take of such tariffs is that they are to prevent competition, namely, to foster manufactures by preventing people from buying in the cheapest market. This would be the nature of the tariffs under Confederation, for it is well known that Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick cannot manufacture for many years the articles which we require. It is well known also, that it is impossible to carry on manufactures extensively with a sparse population, the arguments of the Hon. Solicitor General to the contrary notwithstanding. Labor cannot be so cheap in a new country. That a large part of the population of Britain is dependent on manu-

factures, was evidenced by the fact that many of those working for low wages in factories were nearly starved when cotton became high. They could not buy food in an extensive country. A New England, Prince Edward Island, on account of her position, can never become a great manufacturing country. Our exports will not be to Canada, because she does not want our agricultural produce, still we will be compelled to purchase manufactured articles there, for if we shut out the Americans by hostile tariffs they will not trade with us, and British goods will be excluded in the same way. We have, therefore, seen that the "glory argument" produces no benefit, and that the tariff argument is worse. What then are we to resolve to induce us to enter Confederation? The Hon. and gallant member for Belfast says we are to get a large sum of money from Canada to buy up the proprietors' land. I maintain that by the terms of the Report we will not receive a single farthing from Canada. The £28,000 interest, or thereabouts, which it is said, are to draw for the proportion of debt in our favor, would not be drawn, as all it would only be added to our credit. We would have our share of the proportionate debt of the Colonies to pay, and the amount placed in our credit annually would be just equal to the interest which this Colony, according to her population, would require to pay on the debt of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. So that by this arrangement not one penny would really come to the Island—it would only save us from being taxed for the debt of other people. Besides this, however, we are told that this Island is to receive a capitation grant of 80 cents which will yield a little over £20,000; and that the salaries of her judges, and some other expenses will be paid, amounting to about £10,000 more. But as our Revenue is now £66,000, by this arrangement we would lose over £30,000 annually, with the tariff as ours is at present; if the Canadian tariff, however, were adopted, the sum lost would be nearer £00,000. But some maintain that the expenses under Confederation would be less. This is more than questionable, for there would be a general government to support, public works to be undertaken, and the cost of defence to provide for. It has been estimated that the whole expenses under Confederation would amount to \$13,000,000, but I believe it would be nearer \$20,000,000. It is impossible to say what the future shall be, but I may be allowed to make a calculation, basing my figures on the past. The expenditure of the Canadian Government for six years, from 1857 to 1862, was £21,432,584, or an average yearly expenditure of £3,572,110. Now taking the population of Canada at 24 millions, it is a simple question, in simple proportion, if 24 millions of a population expend £3,572,110 a year, what would P. E. Island, with a population of 80,000, expend at the same rate, and I find we would expend £114,307 a year. Now we will see what P. E. Island did expend during the same period. In the same 6 years the Government of this Island expended £299,168, or an average yearly expenditure of £49,861; so that if we had been in connection with Canada the last 6 years, we would have had to make up a revenue over what we did pay of £64,446 a year, or during the said 6 years we would have had to pay for the Canadian Government the sum of £386,672. This is the sum which we have gained by being out of or without Confederation for the last six years. Canada cannot decrease her expenditure, so it is well for us in looking forward to the future in financial matters to judge by the past. But then, again, by this independence, we will be required to give up our political independence. What is dearer to a man than his country and its institutions? By accepting Confederation we would be surrendering everything which we can politically hold dear. While we have a system of self government, we may sometimes get into difficulties, yet still we will soon rectify ourselves, but if we cast in our lot with others much more numerous than ourselves we will be driven wherever their fancy leads. I cannot conclude