

the best interests of the Island. It calls upon us to increase our tariff, and surrender our revenues. We are required to surrender our revenues for 80 cents per bushel of the population, and for the census of 1861. We do not reluctantly terms. We have no animals or territorial resources as the other Colonies. We have been told that we shall have free trade with all parts of the Confederacy. If so, we must raise whatever revenue we may require beyond the allowance accorded to us from the general Government, to which we ourselves contribute from our own resources. For myself and my constituents I shall oppose the scheme.

Mr. McLENNAN.—I shall not detain you long, Mr. Speaker. It is but dull debating when all are on the same side. I shall not enter into the question of defence, that I shall leave for the hon. and gallant Colonel, the member for Belfast; that of finance to his colleague, the Hon. Col. Secretary. I am conscious that anything which I may say has no effect in promoting or retarding the adoption of the measure. If that were not the case, I should be inclined to speak more fully into the merits of the great question. Our action on war or the other can make little difference in view of the opinion expressed by the people of New Brunswick at the hearings, and in Nova Scotia through the press. The protraction of this debate is, in my opinion, but a waste of public time and money. I would prefer that the vote were taken on the resolutions of the Hon. Col. Secretary's resolution. That would show the country how far their representatives would go in this matter. I am not prepared to go the extreme length of those who declare they are opposed to Confederation on any terms. I am of the same opinion as the hon. member for the city, Mr. Duxie, who believes that we are drifting into some kind of Union, that we should carefully grapple with the question, and, before any Union takes place, obtain the best terms possible. I believe the majority of the people of New Brunswick had not the subject fairly submitted to them in all its bearings when they voted against it; nor was it the bulk of the intelligence of that Province that decided it. For myself I would not assume the responsibility of voting in favour of Confederation without first submitting it to the people. I believe my constituents are satisfied that I am acting an independent part in the matter.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN then addressed the House at considerable length, but he having mislaid the extracts which he read, the Reporter is unable to give a connected report of his speech.

Mr. DUNCAN.—I have a few words to say on this great scheme which is to make this a wonderful country, give us a market of three millions of people, and cheap tea all the way from China. All those who have been in this Colony heretofore, it appears, are but children in trade; let them, however, only go up to Canada a few weeks and they will come down perfectly prepared to argue out any question on trade and finance. We are told that Confederation would promote manufactures in this Colony. Now, to my opinion, this Island can never become a manufacturing country, and I will give my reasons for so thinking. Supposing a person were to start a manufactory here, and another a similar establishment at Pictou, the former would have every market closed against him during the winter except this Island, and the latter would have all the country open to him the whole year round except this Colony in the winter season. The Pictou manufacturer could always send off his stock to store his up for five or six months until the opening of navigation in the spring. The Islander, besides requiring an immense capital, the interest of which would diminish his profits, would frequently suffer from a fall of prices, causing a loss which might have been obviated by an open market. I do not think that any place which is closed in as we are for a part of the year has ever become a great manufacturing country. Then, again, the neighboring Provinces have other advantages over this Island for manufacturing. Canada has abundance of water power, so have Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and those latter Provinces possess coal likewise. But this Colony has no coal, nor has it iron, another advantage which its neighbors possess. This being the case, I think few manufactures can be carried on successfully here. The

tanners may have a little to export for a few years, but the bulk will soon be done, and then exporting will be better to export the hides and import leather. Our interest therefore, as an independent nation, is to obtain our goods in the cheapest market. Can other Colonies cannot compete with Britain in manufactures for many years; but if we enter Confederation we may be tempted to purchase within its bounds, on account of the cheap tariff on European merchandise. This would prove a loss to the Island, in the following way: It supposes an article which could be purchased in Britain for \$100,000, and that it cost in Canada \$110,000, but on account of the duty on the British article, it might be found more advantageous to purchase that of Canadian manufacture, the cost of which being the loss of \$10,000 to the Island. This would be one of the benefits arising out of the scheme, and the colonial free trade. By remaining as we are, the market of this Colony, generally speaking, will obtain its goods from other parts of the world, and it will be a loss among themselves, as it is better than any other market. Under Confederation, but there are certain articles, and which, under the Canadian tariff, would cost the people here much more than at present. Again, we are told that if we enter Confederation our fisheries will be developed. People, it is said, will come here from Canada to fish. This is a strange argument, when it is known that the Canadians already export enough fish to supply all British America. Hereafter we have yet to spare; these will have to be procured at the Magdalen Islands, a place which, though it has been fishing for a long time under the auspices of the Canadian Government, does not show many signs of progress. Everything which can be exported from this Island Canada produce, and therefore no trade of any importance can spring up between this Colony and that Province. Notwithstanding this, I suppose we must contribute to build the Intercolonial Railway. The only article I see that we have got to contribute Canada is oysters. Evidently, the Colonial Secretary has been very considerate in bringing in a Bill to encourage the planting of oysters, as it seems to me that we will have nothing else to send up to Canada on the Intercolonial Railway. Then, again, there is the matter of defence. It is stated that the police force which Canada has on the frontier this winter to prevent border raiding will cost a million of dollars. Were we now in the Union, our proportion of that sum, according to population, would be £768. But the general defences of Canada, according to Colonel Jervis, are to cost \$6,500,000. In Confederation this Island would have to bear its share of this expense, one which, in the present circumstances of our people, they are altogether unable to afford. Another objection which I have to the Quebec scheme is, that it would allow us only about £36,000 for local requirements, and this too a fixed sum, while our wants would yearly increase; perhaps the Canadians thought that under such a scheme they would decrease. (Laughter.) Our Revenue for last year was about £65,000, and deducting the sum to be received from this amount, shows that our loss under our own tariff would be £30,000. But besides this we would have to bear our proportion of building the Intercolonial railway, enlarging the canals, and furthering other public works, which would increase our taxation, and do us no good, but rather an injury by drawing away our people to labor upon them. Again, the "glory argument" is one which the advocates of Confederation never fail to bring forward. We are to become a great nation, but how this is to be effected the promoters of the scheme scarcely understand themselves. One of the advantages of it is, that our members of Parliament will go to live at Ottawa, and we will be left here to pay the chief justices in Canada. They need not devote themselves, for none but those belonging to Canada will have much chance of attaining to such distinction. The Local Legislature, which the Quebec Report contemplates to