

a minority of one—I stood alone—at a celebrated meeting last winter at which that hon. gentleman was present, and if my advice had been taken, as it ought to have been, it would not have been in the power of the authorities on both sides of the water to say that the leaders of the Opposition, as well as the leaders of the Government were all in favor of Confederation.

The hon. member took exception to my calculations and referred to the Hon. George Brown as a great authority. I admit the authority. That gentleman is one of the ablest public men in Canada, and is rarely wrong on questions of finance, nor is he far wrong in the figures referred to although there is an error of \$13,829, the total amount we are to receive being \$380,000 instead of \$393,829 as stated in the *Globe*, when our population reaches 400,000. But the hon. member for Colchester is, or was, a great authority on finance. The Provincial Secretary, his former opponent, but now his leader, dubbed him the "Figure Man" of the late Government—that gentleman is very dexterous in boxing figures, to borrow an expression from the other side, but, somehow or other, he is rarely right in his calculations. The Financial Secretary will remember the gloomy forebodings of the hon. member for South Colchester in 1866 and 1866,—that we were on the eve of a financial crisis—and his confident and reiterated predictions that there would be a large falling off in the revenue in both those years, notwithstanding which the revenue has largely increased in both of them and our financial position materially improved,—and I am glad of it.

We hear a good deal about able financiers, but in most cases the men who earn that name are those who can convert a deficit into a surplus—the Galts and men of that stamp—who boast of an increase of revenue over expenditure when the credit of the country is at its lowest ebb, and the Government is forced to borrow money at ruinous rates of interest. The hon. member for Colchester has favored us with a long array of figures from the *Toronto Globe*, in which it is attempted to be shown that the Maritime Provinces have received more than their share of money, and Canada far less, by the change in the financial arrangements. The calculation of the *Globe* is ingenious, and may have its effect in Canada, in censuring the people of that Province against the Government to which Mr. Brown is determinedly opposed, but it can hardly impose upon any one in this country. The papers on the table show that our Customs revenue alone increased \$372,000 since 1863, the year selected as the basis of the amount to be paid for the support of the local Governments. That amount has been expended in enlarging our humane establishments, upon education, roads and bridges, ferries, &c. Where would the \$372,000 have gone if we were that year confederated with Canada?—Where but into the Canadian treasury, and so with every increase of revenue in all time to come. I know it will be said that our surplus revenue will form a "common fund." True, the fund may be common, but the question to

us to ask ourselves is: How much are we to get back when the money is in the Federal chest, for local purposes? It is vain to deceive ourselves on this point—the Confederation Bill settles the question.

Whatever may be our wants and necessities, every farthing required for local purposes over and above the 80 cents a head and the \$60,000 a year, must be raised by direct taxation, and by direct taxation alone. My hon. friend from Shelburne referred this evening to the coal mines, upon which we might, if severely pressed, have raised additional revenue, but even that privilege accorded by the Quebec scheme, of imposing an export duty, has been taken away from the local and handed over to the general government. We give Canada the power to tax one of our chief exports; and we are then asked to be thankful for a few cents additional per head. Let me give the member for South Colchester another calculation, one to which I challenge a reply. I am now addressing myself to the people of this country, who, if not familiar with the teachings of Hallam and Blackstone and other constitutional authorities, which have been quoted against their liberties, well understand transactions in money in which their pecuniary interests are involved.

Last year we gave in round numbers \$800,000 for local purposes—mark, for strictly local purposes. Now let us see what we are to receive under Confederation:—

And first, there is the 80 cents a head,	\$364,688
Then there is the grant for expenses of the Local Government,	69,000
And lastly, there is to be a further allowance of 80 cents a head un'til our population reaches 400,000, which I throw in, although we are not likely to receive it until the decennial census takes place in 1871.	56,314
	\$380,000

Add to this the local revenue for the mines, crown lands, &c., which I put down at	155,000
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And we have a total revenue of \$535,000 with which to pay \$800,000, the sum appropriated for local objects last year, showing a deficiency of \$265,000 the very first year, and before the high tariff of Canada, the stamp duties, the newspaper tax, and the other ingenious expedients for raising money are brought into operation. I have said that the total revenue from all sources will be \$535,000. Let us see how far this would go towards the local expenses of the country. We last year granted—

For Education,	\$183,595
Board of Works, for services which will still be chargeable on our local revenue,	79,520
Roads and Bridges,	274,228
Legislative expenses,	46,420
	\$583,763

Here, then, we have four items absorbing the entire revenue you will have under Confederation, leaving unprovided for the following services, which were last year estimated to cost—agriculture, \$14,000; crown lands, \$18,500; mines department, \$17,595; packets and ferries within the province, \$11,070; miscellaneous