

meeting, at which numbers of the wealthiest merchants were present, and we know how strongly many of them are opposed to Union. One of them alone, it is currently reported, has subscribed one thousand pounds to start a newspaper to help to write Confederation down. I am told that the mercantile establishment with which the gentleman referred to is connected, supplies many of the small dealers in this island, and clears some sixteen or twenty thousand pounds a year by their transactions. No wonder such influences are brought to bear to oppose our people. I need not refer to the two great influences which we ourselves have had against us from the first—long before the result of the Quebec Conference was known—they were in the field to prejudice the people against any Union whatever, on any terms. But, as I was saying, not one of these gentlemen could refute the statement made in reply to what we have so often read in some portions of our island press, that "whereas the Tariff of Nova Scotia was ten per cent., and that of Canada twenty, of course the people would, if confederated, be taxed double." Mr Adams Archibald, and I believe, Mr Speaker, you and every honorable member in this House, know him to be one of the most reliable of the men of Nova Scotia, proved from the public returns that, in the previous year, the duties collected in Nova Scotia on the six articles of ordinary consumption, viz., Tea and Coffee, Sugar and Molasses, Tobacco and Liquors, including all ardent Spirits and Wines, amounted to the sum of four hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars, while, if the Canada Tariff and system had been in force in Nova Scotia, this sum would have been only three hundred and ninety thousand dollars, not so much by thirty-three thousand dollars as the people of Nova Scotia paid under their present Tariff. To make this apparent, I need only mention that in the year 1863, the people of Canada consumed three millions seven hundred and sixty-seven thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine gallons of liquors, upon which they paid a duty of only three pence three farthings of our currency per gallon; that they also consumed eight millions six hundred and one hundred and forty nine pounds of manufactured tobacco, on which they did not pay one single farthing of duty. Yet, if we look at the newspapers in this island, we will see how it has been paraded that the Canada Tariff on manufactured tobacco is thirty per cent. Yes, but our people had in not explained to them that this duty is only levied on foreign manufactured tobacco; the eight millions were manufactured in Canada, and we could have imported it, if in Confederation, duty free. Let us see how far we would have been affected by this article. Our share would have been in round numbers two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, the duty we would have paid, under the Canada Tariff, would have been not one farthing. Under our island Tariff, of four pence per pound, it would have been four thousand one hundred and sixty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence. Here we see a direct saving to the pockets of our people under the Canada Tariff of four thousand pounds on one article alone. I may remark that, this year, an excise of some cents has been put upon this article in Canada, while we, ourselves, have increased our duty fifty per cent.—from four pence to six pence per pound—but whatever excise has been put upon it in Canada, the returns of which I have not seen, tobacco is sold to-day at a lower price with them than with us. In 1863 (I have not got returns for 1864) the people of Canada consumed thirty six millions pounds of sugar, besides which they manufactured sixteen millions pounds of business firm in Toronto manufactures upwards of sixty thousand pairs of boots and shoes yearly. Manufactures of cotton and woollen goods are largely established, and so great has been the improvement in the manufacture of agricultural implements and machinery that they are now next to independent of the United States. Under their tariff they import eighty articles

duty free. I said that, under the Canada Tariff, we can purchase the articles mostly consumed by our people, at a low rate as under our present island Tariff. I will give the proof. I hold in my hand the printed list of the Trade Prices in the months of December and February for which these articles are sold in Canada. I give them all in Prince Edward Island currency: Hyson Tea, one shilling and ninepence per pound. Choice Tea, one shilling and sixpence per pound. Breakfast Oolong, two shillings per pound. Souchong, choice family, two shillings and four pence per pound. West India Sugars, six pence per pound. Loaf and Crushed Sugars, ten pence per pound. Rice, two pence half penny per pound. Molasses, two shillings per gallon. Coffee, one shilling and four pence per pound. Tallow Candles, seven pence half penny per pound. Manufactured Tobacco, one shilling and five pence per pound. Whiskey, two shillings and six pence per gallon. Superfine, No. 1, Flour, four dollars per barrel. Superfine, No. 2, three dollars and a quarter per barrel. If we compare these prices with those which we now pay in Charlottetown, and if our country friends say that these prices will ruin them, then I will admit that their ideas of union and those which I entertain are widely dissimilar. It was only a short time since that I was under the impression that, under the tariff of Canada, Tea and Sugar would be a trifle dearer than we now have them in Charlottetown, because these are some thousand miles further for the place of transit of these articles, but I find I was mistaken, and that they can be sold as low under the tariff of Canada as under our own; hence I maintain, if the people were truthfully informed, that they would see that it is clear as the sun at noonday, that if we become the consumers, duty free, of the various manufactures of four millions of people, possessing abundance of water-power, raw material and steadily increasing markets, the great bulk of the population of this island could dispense with the consumption of dutiable articles, with the exception of tea, sugar, and molasses, the prices of which, I have shown, are not higher under the Canadian than our own tariff. We should find also that, instead of the Revenue annually required to be raised being doubled, under Confederation, as the opponents of the measure scruple not to assert, it would not be one half of its present amount, and each year would witness its diminution proportionately to the increase of our population. The existing tariffs of all the Provinces would, this year, give a surplus of nearly one million over their aggregate expenditure, and it has been clearly shown that the elevation of the lowest to the level of the highest would produce more money than the requirements of the public service demand; and, therefore, it has been clearly understood that, should we go into Confederation, it will be proposed to reduce the present Tariff of Canada to a medium standard with those of the other Provinces. A country starting, as it were, into life, with a surplus of a million, commences with happy auguries for the future. This sum would pay the interest of a loan of twenty-five millions, and we know that the Home Government would guarantee this at four per cent. It would pay for the Intercolonial Railroad, Canals wherever needed, and provide amply for the public defences; and, while mentioning the defences, I may remark that, not only would the people of this island save several pounds per head, yearly, by the importation of so many articles duty free, but they would save the expense of arms and material, and of annual maintenance of the mills. One take care that they will not, in future, pay more towards the defence of these Colonies than what recollection of their past, and anticipation of their future, may satisfy them in the proposed Confederation, we will be under the necessity which must, sooner or later arrive, of taxing ourselves pretty heavily for this object of defence. The arms alone which we would require for the equipment of our sixteen