

any doubt as to whether New Brunswick would build her line to the border, if there was any danger of any difficulty occurring, he was willing to agree to this proposition, rather than run the risk of the line not being built.

On the subject of the Intercolonial railroad he would say that if built by the United Provinces, even if it remained unremunerative for a while, it would not bear too heavily upon the revenue, because when all our revenues are combined we would be in a better position to bear the burden than we are now. All the revenues would go into the common treasury, the public works would be of such a nature that the combined means of all the Provinces would be sufficient to sustain them. It appeared to him surprising that hon. gentlemen in discussing the question, appeared to think that Nova Scotia was always going to be Nova Scotia, they forget that they would all be British Americans—all our people would be associated together for business purposes, with one code of laws, one currency, one system of custom duties.

But he would not say any more at present, about the union of the colonies. The hon gentleman concluded by recapitulating the advantage Nova Scotia would derive from the extension of railway communication, if providently and economically carried out.

Mr. MILLER said, he did not intend, at that period of the session, to weary the house with any lengthened remarks upon the subject then under discussion. The resolution before the house proposes to grant from the public treasury, as a free gift for the next twenty years, the sum of four per cent. on \$40,000 a mile to a company to complete railway connection between Truro and Moncton, and the further sum of four per cent. on \$24,000 per mile to extend the railway from Windsor to Annapolis, not including the Avon bridge. This resolution will, therefore, add to the burdens of the country about \$23,000 for the next twenty years.

It would be in the recollection of the house that when this question was brought up last year, and the subvention resolution was moved by the Provincial Secretary, he (Mr. M.) moved a resolution, by way of amendment, to this effect:—

"Whereas, The revenue of this Province is now burthened with a liability of about £60,000 annually for interest on the money invested in our existing lines of railway.

And whereas, The Act of this Session, providing for the construction of the line to Pictou, will entail a further charge of at least £25,000 annually.

Therefore resolved, That it is unwise, at the present time, to pledge the public credit to the extent required by the resolution before the House."

That amendment, he regretted to say, was lost by a large majority, and by the votes of many whose duty it was to have sustained it. It was true, that the impression prevailed at the time, whether rightly founded or not, that although the subvention for the Annapolis line was included in the original resolution, there was no serious intention of carrying it into effect; and some of those who voted for it might have been influenced by that idea. Whether that was a sufficient excuse for the action of any hon. gentleman upon a question of such magnitude as this, was not for him to say. If any such consider-

ations controlled the votes of any members of the house last year, he trusted such would not be the case on the present occasion, and that the people's representatives would consider well the consequences that would flow from the vote they were about to give—a vote which must add enormously to the taxation of the country. When he looked at the conduct of the gentlemen who were now conducting the government of this country—when he observed the reckless extravagance of their general policy, and contrasted it with their retrenchment pledges, and the course they pursued a few years ago, when in opposition—especially with regard to railways, he was inclined to look with much suspicion and distrust upon their present action on this subject. What had produced a change so startling and extreme? If the government then in power had endeavoured to fasten upon the resources of the province the liability which is now sought to be imposed, those gentlemen would have raised a howl of indignation throughout the whole country. He was curious, therefore, to enquire into the causes which had led to this sudden change of policy. To his mind there was only one satisfactory solution of the inconsistency of the administration, and their apparent desire to plunge the country inextricably into debt. They all knew that the members of the present government were heart and soul wrapped up in carrying to a successful termination the confederation of the British North American provinces, and that hitherto the most powerful argument used by the opponents of that measure was the increased taxation it would involve, and the necessity of raising our tariff from ten to twenty per cent. Now, if they succeed in embarrassing the finances of the country, if they succeed in burthening our resources with the enormous debt the resolution on the table of the house will entail, so as to compel us to increase the taxation of the people by doubling our tariff, they, at the same time do away with one of the principle objections to their pet scheme of confederation. It was hard to fathom the motives of these gentlemen, but it was clear they were not governed by a prudent regard to the best interests of the country. Perhaps, also, a desire to secure the political favor of one or two western counties has something to do with the extension to Annapolis. These were the only motives that suggested themselves to his mind for the reckless course the government were now pursuing on this question. When this subject was discussed last session he had endeavored, feebly no doubt, but to the best of his ability, to urge his views against the policy then under consideration, because he keenly felt its injustice to those he represented. All he could say then had no effect in deterring hon. gentlemen from the headlong course of extravagance they seemed determined to pursue, and he supposed anything he might say now would be equally useless and unavailing. He did not intend to go into financial matters, which had been so ably treated by the learned leader of the Opposition—but he thought that any one who listened to the arguments of that hon. member—with a sincere desire to arrive at a correct conclusion—could not fail to be convinced of the correctness of the views he enunciated, and the wisdom of the course he advocated. That hon.