

cidedly in favor of the project. One honorable member (Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON) who represents 130,000 souls, has told the House that he has held meetings all over the vast Division for which he sits, and that in every case he has explained the subject to them without finding a single person to oppose it. (Hear.) The honorable member for Niagara also said, that the project has been unfairly brought down. Now, I contend that it was brought down in the only way in which it could be submitted to us or to the people. Such a censure as this is beyond my comprehension, and it has certainly not been shewn to my satisfaction, nor I should imagine, to that if any body else, in what the unfairness consists. (Hear.) Next the honorable member attacked the financial terms of the scheme, and rolled up a mass of figures which I strongly suspected the honorable member himself did not understand. (Hear, and laughter.) The Minister of Finance fully and lucidly stated the case last evening, and I will read part of his speech to show how satisfactorily the matter was explained. Hon. Mr. GALT said:

With reference to the trade of this country, he had taken the returns of 1863. The returns of the trade of Canada, in that year, taking exports and imports conjointly, showed an aggregate of \$87,796,000. Taking the census of 1861, this trade represented thirty-five dollars per head of the population. The value of the import and export trade of New Brunswick, for the same year, reached \$16,729,680, amounting to sixty-six dollars per head of its population. The aggregate trade of Nova Scotia, for the same period, amounted to \$18,622,359, or fifty-six dollars per head of its people. And in the case of Prince Edward Island, the import and export trade amounted to \$3,056,668, representing thirty-seven dollars per head of the population of that colony. The value of the total trade of Newfoundland was \$1,245,032, or eighty-six dollars per head. The whole of these figures represented an aggregate trade of all the provinces, amounting to \$137,447,567. (Hear, hear.)

With respect to the revenue and expenditure of the provinces, I find a succinct statement in the speech delivered by Mr. GALT, at Sherbrooke, as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
Nova Scotia	\$1,185,629	\$1,072,274
New Brunswick	899,991	884,613
Newfoundland (1862.) ..	480,000	479,420
Prince Edward Island..	197,384	171,718
Canada.....	9,760,316	10,742,807
Total, 1863.....	\$12,623,320	13,350,832
Total, 1864.....	14,223,320	13,350,832
Estimated Surplus, 1864.....		\$87,2488

The Hon. Minister of Finance made some admirable remarks, at Sherbrooke, with reference to the indebtedness of the colonies, where he gave to a public meeting the following table:

Nova Scotia.....(1863).....	\$ 4,858,547
New Brunswick.... "	5,702,991
Newfoundland.....(1862).....	946,000
Prince Edward Island	240,673
Total, Maritime Provinces....	\$11,748,211
Canada, (1863).....	67,263,994
Grand Total.....	\$79,012,205

Reasoning from these figures, Mr. GALT stated that the debt of Canada amounts at the present time to about \$27 per head, and that to enter into an equitable arrangement with the other provinces where the debts were about \$25 per head either ours had to be reduced or theirs increased; that is, when made chargeable to the Confederation—and as the former is the preferable course, the surplus or excess of ours over \$25 per head has to be locally assumed by Canada. He also explained that the debts of Prince Edward Island and of Newfoundland being less than \$25 per head, an allowance had to be made to them to place them on an equal footing with the rest of the colonies. I will add, for the information of the honorable member for Niagara, the following official figures, which are instructive as showing that the people of the Maritime Provinces are a people who contribute, under their present tariffs, a considerable sum to their respective treasuries:

DUTY ON IMPORTS PER HEAD (1863).

Newfoundland.....	\$3.53
Nova Scotia.....	2.46
New Brunswick.....	2.81
Prince Edward Island.....	1.69
Canada.....	1.85

Looking at all these facts together, the conclusion appears to me irresistible that the arrangement proposed is in every respect an equitable one, and that it has been made with a view to give to each province as nearly as possible what is right and fair, as far as what is right could be discovered. No honorable member could wish that Canada should have undue advantages over the other parties to the compact. The spirit in which the deliberations of the Conference were conducted was the correct one, and had its members tried to overreach each other—had they not been impressed with the necessity of mutual concessions for the common good—no result could ever have been arrived at. (Hear, hear.) The next point the honorable member touched was the