

be the motive impelling Sir John Macdonald to disregard and violate the principles regarding disallowance which he so recently enunciated? Was it that after an experience of fifteen years of Confederation, he was about to undo the grand scheme of a confederated Dominion, and return to his favourite idea of legislative union? It was so well known that Sir John Macdonald advocated legislative union, and only abandoned it as impracticable under existing circumstances. To use his own words, "he found it impossible to bring about Confederation unless he gave up his idea of legislative union," which could not be brought about "all at once." The three last words were significant in indicating the direction of Sir John Macdonald's mind on this subject. (Hear, hear.) Were the people of this premier Province, he would ask, going to relinquish the control of their own affairs after having reached the front position they had, after becoming the wealthiest Province in the Confederation, after by frugality and enterprise building up a country, attracting a large population and putting a surplus in the Treasury, were they, when they had attained that position, ready to go back to a legislative union? Were they, with Quebec labouring under a heavy indebtedness, and Ontario contributing five-ninths of the revenue, willing to take such a retrogressive step? He thought not. He charged the leader of the other side of the House with fencing on this question of maintaining Provincial rights. That hon. gentleman had formerly assisted the Government in advancing the claim for our territorial rights. But after a conference with his Ottawa chief the hon. gentleman changed his attitude, abandoned his former position, and clung to the skirts of Sir John. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman had no doubt said to his leader: "I will give you my support in the matter of the Award, and I hope you will lend us a hand at the local elections." (Applause.) Mr. Badgerow apologized to the House for occupying so much of the time, but no doubt the importance of the subjects under discussion would be his best excuse. He resumed his seat amid applause.

Mr. BASKERVILLE found fault with the Government for having failed to give some credit to the National Policy for the country's prosperity in preparing the Speech. It was properly felt by a large majority of the people that the young and struggling industries of this country stood in need of protection to enable them to compete successfully with those of older countries, which have become more permanently established. He thought the Government in agitating the boundary question was seeking to make for themselves political capital, and he defended the action of the Dominion Government in the course they had taken. The Rivers and Streams Bill was very properly vetoed, because the provisions for compensating owners of improvements were insufficient. The necessity for further maintaining the Upper Canada College at the public expense had passed away, since the establishment of numerous institutions where instruction in the higher branches of education can be obtained at moderate cost. He concluded with the hope that members on both sides would abandon partizan feeling, and come to a consideration of the questions before them with a view only to the public interest.

Mr. FIELD said he felt that he would be wanting in duty to his constituents if he did not say a few words on the important questions now before the House. Referring to the claim made by hon. gentlemen opposite for the success of the fiscal policy of the country he instanced the fact of the Hochelaga and Valleyfield Cotton Companies having lately paid dividends of ten per cent. quarterly above expenses, as an instance of the operation of protection in the interest of the manufacturer. As a mercantile man of forty years' experience he had no hesitation in saying that the N. P. had borne with especial severity upon the farmers and working classes. They were told in 1878 that the price of barley would be advanced by the proposed duty of 15 per cent., but the result had not verified that prediction. During the late election contest for the Local House in his riding (West Northumberland), nothing was said on this subject by the Opposition candidate and his friends, well knowing that they had nothing favourable to say. In the same way it was promised that the wool interest would be stimulated by protection. As the N. P. was originally framed no duty was placed on wool, and after it had been in operation for about twelve months, a deputa- tion of farmers waited upon Sir John and induced him to place a duty upon wool, but only upon long staple such as is grown in Canada. Fine wools, such as it was necessary to import for manufacturing purposes, were still admitted free, and the result was that the treasury was not enriched one dollar from wool duties. And so in this way the Conservative Government at Ottawa had been deceiving the people by these clap-trap cries, but he predicted that when they go before the farmers again for their support they will need to have something better than the duties on barley and wool to point to in order to win the people's suffrages. It was no wonder that a few of the manufacturers were found advocating protection when by it they were able to reap such profits as he had quoted. It was the duty of a Government instead of trying to pile up large yearly surpluses to apportion the taxation so that it will take the least possible amount of money out of the pockets of the farmers and the working classes and the masses of the people. (Cheers.) Every speech of hon. gentlemen opposite had gone to show that protection had increased the burdens upon the people without giving any corresponding return. On the plain, strong class of goods suitable for clothing for the labouring classes, all of which has to be imported, there was a duty placed equal to about 40 per cent., as against 17½ per cent. under the old order of things. The country's prosperity was due to bountiful harvests, the increase in the cattle export trade with England, and to the revival of the lumber trade, rather than to any difference in the mode of collecting the revenue. He referred to the recent decision in the Privy Council, which established beyond a doubt the power of the Local Legislature to deal with all matters relating to insurance companies. The object of the Government in framing the Streams Bill was evidently to for ever set at rest all disputes which might arise upon the question whether any person having made improvements upon a portion of a stream may dictate to all others upon what basis they

shall be permitted to float timber over the stream. Now that that Bill had been disallowed it was the duty of the Government to re-enact that measure and show the Dominion Government and Sir John Macdonald that the people of this Province believed it to be a proper measure. They shall again assert their power to pass such a measure in that House. (Hear, hear.) Adverting to the cost of the improvements made on the Mississippi River by McLaren he said that the figure named by the member for Glengarry (Mr. Macmaster) \$200,000, was altogether too high, it having been proved that \$14,000 would cover the entire outlay. He pointed out the enormous expenditure of money on the part of the Province which the adoption of the proposition of the member for Muskoka, that the Government should purchase and maintain these improvements, would involve. He could not agree with that proposition. It was far wiser to pass a measure placing a toll on every log floated down the stream. If the compensation in the Act of last session was not sufficient, then it devolved upon them to enact a measure which would be satisfactory. (Applause.) Passing on to the matter of the Boundary Award, he dealt with the charge of neglect made against Mr. Mackenzie by the leader of the Opposition, which was disproved, he pointed out, by the fact that when the attention of Mr. Mackenzie was called to the subject it was in August, 1878, and he went out of office in September or the early part of October. It was impossible, therefore, for Mr. Mackenzie to have ratified the award. He believed, if hon. gentlemen opposite went to the country with the contention that Ontario had got every inch of territory she had when she entered Confederation, that they would fail most disastrously. (Applause.) Eminent and impartial arbitrators, Sir Edward Thornton, Sir Francis Hincks, and Chief Justice Harrison, had awarded to Ontario a vast territory, 100,000 square miles in extent, rich in timber and minerals, and according to the report of Professor Bell, with a soil capable of growing wheat, barley, and other products, and of supporting a large industrial population. (Hear, hear.) The timber alone was estimated to be worth \$150,000,000, and yet gentlemen opposite stood up on the floor of that House and defended Sir John Macdonald in refusing to hand over that territory. (Hear, hear.) They endeavoured to belittle the Province and they had his commiseration when they appealed to the people. (Hear, hear.) What, he asked, took place between Sir John Macdonald and the leader of hon. gentlemen opposite at the Convention held in Toronto recently, to induce the member for London, who had joined with the Government in standing up for Ontario's rights during the sessions of 1879-80 and '81, to now assume the unenviable position he did before the people of this Province. (Loud applause.) He was satisfied that they would have to explain why they had ceased to support the Government in its position on the Boundary Award, and why they had wheeled round and tried to belittle their Province. (Loud applause.)

Mr. WATERS moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at six p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. LAUDER—On Thursday next—Motion for a return showing:—1. A list of lands in the municipality of Shuniah in arrears for taxes on the 10th day of February, 1876, the amount of such arrears, and giving a list of the names of the owners of such lands. 2. A list of lands in said municipality on which taxes had been paid at said date, and the amount of such taxes, giving names of owners of said lands.