

New Brunswick, but for himself he approved of the Government obtaining ample information about this work before rushing into a large expenditure. The late Government were seven years in power, but they had done very little towards this work. They had left as a legacy to the present Government a number of unfinished projects, and unsettled questions, and he believed the people of New Brunswick were willing to give the Government a reasonable time to complete these projects. The policy of the late Government seemed to be to start a great many projects, and accomplish none. With regard to the Baie Verte Canal, he was inclined to think that many of those who had spoken on the subject underrated its commercial value, at the same time he believed the Government were justified in taking ample time to satisfy themselves as to the value of the work from a commercial point of view and as to its cost. This country had experience enough of undertaking expensive works that were non-productive. The policy of the Opposition seemed to be to create discussion in the Dominion and to make the Maritime Provinces feel that their interests were neglected, but he did not believe they would succeed in that unpatriotic course. It had been stated that the Premier was influenced by the hon. member for South Bruce. He (Mr. GILMOUR) believed that the Premier had a mind of his own, and would perform what he promised. The Premier was taking a wise course in deciding to obtain the fullest information before entering upon the large expenditure necessary to construct the Baie Verte Canal. He did not say this because he was opposed to that canal; on the contrary, he would be glad to see it constructed; but the Government were right in proceeding with caution. He was very much surprised at the position taken by members from Nova Scotia on this question. He did not wish to charge them with being influenced by sectional feelings, but he was bound to say that it looked very much like it. He would like to see the Maritime Provinces more united so that if ever it became necessary for them to resist injustice on the part of the larger Provinces, they would be in a position to do so effectively. The Opposition were not half so anxious about this work when they were in power as they profess

Mr. Gilmour.

to be now. They were like the Irishman who was always willing to give away milk after his cows went dry. When they were powerless they would have the people believe they would do wonders for them if they only had the chance, though when they had the power they did very little. He thought the people would prefer to try the present Government a good while longer before they called the Opposition back to power. He was reminded of the story of a man who had been a hard drinker, but who had reformed. He took sick and had one spasm and the doctor told him that if he did not take a little liquor he would have another spasm, and the third one would finish him. "Well," said the sick man, "I have had one spasm and will run the risk of having another before I will take drink again." He believed the people had enough of the late Government and would run the risk of having two spasms of the present Government before they tried them again.

Mr. PLUMB thought if the members of the Government wished to have ample time to build the Canal, the House ought to have ample time to discuss the question. At the proposed rate of expenditure, \$20,000 per annum, it would take three hundred years to complete the work, and that would be time enough for the old proverb to be realized—"Make haste slowly." He desired to say one word with regard to the Premier's expression of opinion with regard to Boards of Trade. The public were indebted to the gentlemen constituting the Boards of Trade, for the manner in which they discussed commercial questions, and it was not seemly for members of this House, especially those who were not commercial men, to sneer at their opinions. It so happened, however, that Boards of Trade in their discussions had recently run counter to the views of hon. gentlemen on the Government side of the House. He expressed himself in accord with the views of hon. gentlemen who condemned the practice of keeping in the estimates a large sum for the construction of the Baie Verte Canal if it was understood that the amount was not to be expended for that but for other purposes, because it was just offering a bait for political support. Such action was entirely unworthy the statesmanship of a gentleman who aspired to lead this House.