

sunk in the gorges of the Fraser. Should this be so? Are we to tax ourselves to the last point of endurance, and to mortgage heavily our future and our country for such an object as this? If it be true, as your trusted representative, your High Commissioner, said on the 27th March last, that "The duty of opening up the North-West is one we are to perform, not so much for ourselves as for the Empire at large; that the inhabitants of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and even Ontario, have not much greater direct interest in opening up those wheat fields than the farmers of Yorkshire and Tipperary;" if this be true, how much less interest have we in opening up the canons and gorges of British Columbia? If it be true, as your High Commissioner said, on the same occasion, that, "it is impossible for us with our limited means to undertake alone the settlement of the North-West; that we have neither the people nor the money to do it;" if this be true, how much less are we able to add to that intolerable task the Columbia section of the Railway? Is this indeed the way to develop even such a poor and attenuated national spirit as is attainable by a people who are not permitted, who, perhaps, do not even aspire to their legitimate participation in the management of the concerns of the great family of nations? Is this indeed the way to infuse among us the spirit of unity and brotherly love, to make us one, and a contented people? You may perhaps partly satisfy the 12,000 souls in British Columbia; but only because your action is the pledge and hostage to them for the completion of this gigantic work, to the ruin of the whole. For us, for all, this is not the way. It is not by the forced connection of a restrictive Tariff, compelling each of us to trade with some other of us, to our loss, and against our will; it is not by the fatal load of an enormous debt, crushing out our energies and mortgaging our hopes; it is not by an added weight of taxes, lowering the value of our labours, and lessening the comfort of our lives; it is not by flinging, with a lavish hand, into the mountains and rivers of Columbia all you can collect or borrow, while you starve all public works at home; that you will accomplish a real success, that you will consolidate and harmonise the union. You

are making our load heavier than that of the United States. You are making it heavier than we can bear. You are paving the way to that very annexation which you profess to dread; because you are bringing us to a plight in which we may be forced to do, as a people, what we heard described the other day as the sad end of many an imprudent individual borrower, to sell our poor equity of redemption to the only available purchaser. You profess unbounded faith in the permanence of your restrictive Tariff; you blame us for even discussing its operation, for throwing doubts on its durability; and at the same instant you send a High Commissioner to England, who asks her to close her ports against the grain of the world, in order that your farmers and hers may obtain from her millions of poor a higher price for the staff of life; and, who proposes in return, that you should open your ports to her manufactures, thus destroying your revenue, and at the same time, under the fierce and unchecked competition of the cheapest producers in the world, blasting at once every one of your home industries, which is said to be dependent on a duty for its existence. Such is your reckless, your inconsistent, your vacillating, your unpractical policy! Do you ask for mine? I will tell it. Set free the springs of legitimate revenue, by removing the obstacles designed to choke them. Open the avenues of legitimate trade, by lowering the legislative bars designed to close them. Free the people, as soon as may be, from the extortionate taxation by which you oppress them. Return to a moderate revenue tariff, the only practicable plan in our circumstances, and a necessary incident in whose operation is to give some of the so called advantages of protection to some of your native industries. By an earnest and searching plan of economy and retrenchment, directed to every branch of the public service, help to redress the balance between revenue and expenditure, while you lighten the people's burdens. But if you will do none of these things, if you will in all else persist in your mad career, at any rate in this be wise. If, in all else, you be rash, in this at any rate be discreet. Learn that our position is grave and serious, and that our future is dependent

MR. BLAKE.