

the Pacific Railway, the most destructive and the most ruinous of all? Who undertook to fix upon this Dominion that incubus of British Columbia, that excrescence of British Columbia, that cancer, financially, of British Columbia, that was eating into our vitals and entailing a heavy financial burden upon the country for all time to come? Who undertook that, but the hon. the Finance Minister and his associates? And why was it undertaken? It was undertaken to meet the political necessities of the hon. gentleman and his associates, and the representation given to that Province in the arrangement was evidence that the whole thing was done to serve their political interests. In this Parliament, British Columbia had six representatives for 10,000 or 15,000 inhabitants. Upon what principle of justice or fair play could such representation be defended? Then his hon. friend stood up and said: "Oh! when I was Finance Minister in 1873, everything was rosy and beautiful; everything was easy; I found it a pleasant task to be Finance Minister then; but now all that is changed." And so the hon. gentleman went on as if his predecessors had fixed all these burdens and all these obligations upon this Dominion. But he and his associates did it themselves, and there was no body to blame for it but themselves if he found it difficult now. It was easy, during the seven years of plenty, when every thing was prosperous, to meet his obligations. It was easy, when the revenue was rolling in, and he had surplus after surplus. But he deserved no credit for that, and if he had continued in power up to the present time he would have deserved no censure for the deficits which arose. He did not think it was fair for the hon. gentleman to charge the late Ministry with being responsible for those deficits. He regretted to see deficits, but what was the nature of these deficits? Had it hurt the people any to let them keep the money in their pockets by not putting more taxation on them? Had it burdened them? He knew it was unpleasant to have deficits, and he wished it were otherwise. He supposed his hon. friends composing the late Government were expecting, from year to year, that there would be an improvement in the business of the country; that im-

portations would be increased, and they were slow to increase the burdens of the people. He admitted now that the deficits might have been stopped, in part at least, by retrenchment, by stopping certain public works; and they might have been stopped by an increase of taxation. He did not know what course the late Government would have adopted if they had remained in power, but he should have advised them not to increase taxation, to cut down expenditure wherever they could, and to economise. He regretted that his hon. friends had not stopped some of this expenditure when they were in power. It would have been difficult, no doubt, since these public works had been already commenced by the preceding Government, and had to be carried on to completion. They had to expend \$30,000,000 in order to complete the obligations which his hon. friend the present Finance Minister and his associates had entailed upon them. The late Government had undertaken no great public works; everything that could be undertaken to get popularity and political support had been undertaken by their predecessors. The obligations had been incurred, and they had to be carried out by the late Government. They had to do it under very distressing financial circumstances; they had to do it in the midst of a depression of trade, of a falling revenue, and he thought they did it well. During the late election, so far as his own county of Charlotte was concerned, the canvass had been conducted, on the part of his opponents against the late Government, against himself, and not in favour of the National Policy. And that was the way the battle was fought out in the Province generally. They did not present to the people this beautiful National Policy, but, on the contrary, they denied it. He told the people what he thought would be the policy of the Conservative party, judging them from their declarations. He told them they might expect a duty on flour of about 50c. a barrel, and also a duty on cornmeal; and that, in short, in order to carry out their promises, he thought they would introduce a system of Protection. But he did not think that his hon. friend the Finance Minister told them that when he addressed them. They always denied, when he (Mr. Gill-