

20 per cent. we are now charging is practically to the consumer 40 per cent, on the same amount of goods, the same number of yards he uses—40 per cent if the price has doubled, 30 per cent if it has risen one half. These are considerations which must be in the minds of the Committee when we are considering the question of taxation. It is plain that, if we maintain the rate so high that parties cannot obtain the goods at prices at which they have previously obtained them, it will limit the consumption. If we can, by reducing the duty on an article, enable persons to obtain a larger quantity at the same price, it is clear we have promoted the welfare of the country in so doing. The result of the measure which I have had the honor to introduce this evening, if it should receive the approval of the legislature, will, I think, be in many respects beneficial to the country. I think it will certainly re-establish the credit of the country on a basis from which it cannot be shaken. (Hear, hear.) I think it will encourage immigration to the country by making as marked a difference as possible in our favor between the charges of living here and the charges of living in the United States.

It is clear that if we were to cease our efforts for the settlement of the country, if we were to put a stop at once to the various schemes we have on hand at this moment for the purpose of promoting it—if we were to do this, there is no doubt we might save a good deal of money. But I do not believe that would be a sound course to pursue. I do not think, because we have a temporary difficulty to meet, we should abandon those plans for the general settlement and improvement of the country which we have initiated. (Hear, hear.) Therefore on this occasion, while I have felt the necessity as far as possible of cutting down the outlay in every branch of the public service, while I have felt that necessity as strongly as any member of this House can feel it, at the same time I have not hesitated to recommend in the estimates which are in the hands of members, a double grant for the settlement of the country and the continuation of those Colonization Roads which have done so much good already. (Hear.) Notwithstanding that I felt the difficulty in which I should be placed in coming before the House this evening, notwithstanding that no one could understand better than I did the effect of the statement I was to make, I have not hesitated to increase that difficulty rather than to diminish it, by providing means for objects whereby I hope to see the prosperity of the country promoted. (Hear, hear.) And notwithstanding the temporary difficulties in which we are placed, it is well to remember that, if the House assents to every item of the taxation I have mentioned, the