

manner I have suggested. Burdened as this country is, that work will demand the most prudent management and the most careful economy, and will involve an elimination of every other expenditure which can be in the meanwhile avoided. According to the former figures of the hon. gentleman's Engineer, and to the view of the hon. member for Lambton, our interest charges will be about two millions a year when that road is completed as far as Edmonton. All that we can get from the lands in that country, for the next few years, during which we shall be engaged in the construction of the road, will not, I believe, do more than help to eke out that interest. I now proceed to state my views about the land question, but whatever we may decide about the land, I maintain that to attempt at this time more than is necessary, more than is essential, more than the cardinal thing upon which the success of the whole enterprise is to turn, is an act of folly and madness. I intend before I sit down to discuss what is the true financial condition of this country, and what is its rate of taxation as compared with the rates of taxation existing in 1871; and to consider how far, apart from the sale of the lands, it is possible for us to undergo the strain which the proposed work will inflict upon us. But before I touch that subject, it becomes necessary to deal with the question of the lands, because the allegations made the other day with reference to the sales of lands, were that these sales would relieve us almost immediately from the interest liability, and practically from the liability for principal. I quite agree that if the calculations of the hon. First Minister and of the hon. Minister of Railways, as to receipts from lands, and expenditure on construction are founded upon a reasonable basis, they remove all serious difficulty and we may fairly and reasonably launch out into the construction of the Central and Western, and also into the construction of the Eastern end of the Pacific Railway. I perfectly agree that if these matured conjectures, in which every doubt was given to the side of prudence—which represent minima instead of maxima; if these close and accurate calculations are fairly to be counted upon as the results of

the immigration and the Railway construction; if business men, acting in their own concerns, or acting for others for whom they are trustees, ought to accept these figures as a basis for encountering for themselves or for others for whom they act enormous liabilities, then the results of these calculations do justify as in assuming the liabilities proposed to us. Now, let us see what these calculations are. They assume that the emigration will commence at 25,000 and increase yearly by 5,000, making, in the course of eleven years, 550,000 emigrants. Of these 68,500 are to become homesteaders and preemptors, at an average rate of \$3 an acre for the preempted land; 34,200 are to become purchasers of and settlers upon railway lands, at an average rate of \$3 an acre for the railway lands, making 102,700 owners of 32,640,000 acres to be settled in that country in the course of eleven years. The Government calculates not merely on this number of emigrants, not merely on this number of purchasers, not merely on these prices, not merely on this acreage, but with a sublime indifference to all the dictates of prudence, and to all the experience of all time, they calculate on the settlers on these lands paying their large instalments up to the day. They calculate on the receipt of \$38,593,000 from land sales in eleven years, and, in addition, on a good debt of \$32,750,000 more, bearing interest, making over \$71,300,000 for lands, with a claim for interest on the debt at 6 per cent. They estimate the cost of survey and management for this vast undertaking at \$2,400,000. I allege that the result of these several calculations is absurdly extravagant. I hope for a very large emigration to the North-West this year, and perhaps next year. I do not intend to be bound to an estimate for ten years by the results of one or two years. I call the attention of the House and the country to the consideration of the fact that we are dealing with an estimate, not for one or two years, but an estimate for ten years; not an estimate of \$10,000,000, but an estimate of \$60,000,000; therefore, I do not intend to be bound by the figures for the early years, attended as these are with many exceptional circumstances. Of course the whole