

Two things had been prominent since the beginning of this discussion. In the first place, hon. gentlemen on the Government side had never failed to inform them, on the Opposition side, that they were in a minority. It was unnecessary to tell them so; they were fully conscious of it. But he would rather be in a minority, and acting according to his sense of duty and right, than be in a majority and acting contrary to his convictions. He did not, however, charge hon. members opposite with acting contrary to their convictions in this matter. Another circumstance he had observed in this discussion was the amount of fulsome flattery, and the capacity to swallow it that had been manifested by the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches. Really in old times they did not bow more obsequiously to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image than hon. gentlemen bowed to his hon. friend the Finance Minister. Every one of them had complimented him, bowing low before him. While listening to them, he had been reminded of the old maxim that flattery is the food of fools. They were not fools, but "now and then even men of wit could condescend to take a bit," and sometimes a very large bit of flattery. He really pitied the hon. the Finance Minister while he saw this going on. He knew it must be disagreeable to him to have every one of them, from the highest to the lowest, from the cleverest to the least clever, feeling it to be their bounden duty to tell him what a remarkable golden calf he had set up for them, in the shape of this tariff. He (Mr. Gillmor) was not opposed to a compliment; he was glad to receive one when it was merited, and sometimes he could swallow quite a large one. But, when they came to give it to a man in such quantities, in such chunks, he thought few men, except his hon. friend, could swallow it. He had listened to every speech that had been made since this discussion commenced. He had listened to the hon. the Finance Minister's statement when he pictured the glowing condition in which the finances of this country were when he left office in 1873, and drew a gloomy picture of their condition when he entered upon his duty now. He (Mr. Gillmor) failed to see how the late Government had made the financial

condition of this country at all difficult, when the hon. gentleman came into office the second time. It was very unfair to try to make the country believe that its financial condition had been made worse by his predecessors. He did not believe facts would justify that assertion. How had the late Government made that condition any worse than it would have been if the hon. gentleman himself had been Finance Minister during the last five years? Had the late Government undertaken any financial obligation during their term of office, that would not have been equally undertaken by the hon. gentleman and his associates if they had been in office? The whole thing was mortgaged long before the late Government came into office. The hon. gentleman complained that his position was difficult owing to the financial obligations of this Dominion. But who undertook them? Who undertook the obligation of building the Intercolonial Railway? And here he would add, he did not find fault so much with the railway, but it was, nevertheless, an incumbrance on the finances of this country. Government had now to provide more than \$1,000,000 annually, as interest on the cost of building that railway, and another half million to pay its running expenses. Who was to blame for that? Was it the late Finance Minister? No; it was the present Finance Minister and his associates who were responsible for that work. Therefore, if he complained that he had to provide every year for this \$1,500,000, he had no one to blame but himself and his associates. Who undertook the Prince Edward Island Railway, which involved a large expenditure, and entailed an obligation against the Dominion of Canada? No one but the hon. gentleman and his associates. Who undertook the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Railways, that also increased the financial obligation of this country? Who undertook the enlargement of the St. Lawrence Canals, but his hon. friend and his associates? Who undertook the Welland Canal, but those hon. gentlemen? Who undertook the public works at Ottawa, and the public buildings of the Dominion, but his hon. friend and his associates? Who undertook the building of