

withstanding all the disadvantages resulting from the troubles in the North-West, the calling away of teams and farmers for transport purposes, there has been so large an acreage brought under cultivation that the crop of this year, it is estimated, if there is no further difficulty in the North-West, will be seven or eight millions of bushels and will yield a surplus of at least 5,000,000 bushels. I mention these facts because it seems to be a habit of hon. gentlemen on the other side to make an attack on that road whenever they have an opportunity, and couple it with an attack on the North-West and its capabilities. It is unfortunate that hon. gentlemen are in that position. It is unfortunate that they have been compelled by the exigencies of their position, by the fact that they are opposed to the Government, to stand in opposition to all the great enterprises which have distinguished the Dominion of Canada since confederation. They are compelled to do that or else they are no longer in opposition. I feel great sympathy with them. It is their misfortune, but they do not seem to be able to see or to understand the logical conclusion of their policy. The hon. gentlemen have been in the minority for the greater part of the time since confederation, and I think it may be very clearly inferred that they will continue to remain a minority as long as they continue their unwise course. The people of Canada are progressive: they are not pessimists as a rule. They are a young people looking forward to a future, and they will not believe that the country is being depopulated. They do not believe that a country, with an almost prohibitory tariff on the other side, is a place of refuge because there is a moderate tariff on this side, and as long as the leaders of the Reform party indulge in that kind of argument just so long will they be unable to command the confidence of the people of Canada. If the Opposition were to be believed the whole credit of the country would have been paralyzed this year. Everybody knows the rabid attacks that have been made upon it. It has not been done to a great extent here, because the Opposition in this House has not taken that line. It has been left to one or two gentlemen who have placed themselves in the front rank to take that position. But what has been the effect of the

policy of the Opposition in another place? While the most venomous attack was being made on the country there, the people of Great Britain were rushing into the money market of London to take the 4 per cent stocks of Canada and subscribe three and four times as much as was asked for, and take it at a better price than any loan that was ever made by hon. gentlemen on the other side, although the public debt has swollen to a large amount. I went to the Treasury Department to get a statement of the debt as it stood on the 30th June last, and I found that there was only \$100,000,000 difference between the calculation of the hon. gentleman and the facts as they stand on the books of the Dominion.

HON. MR. CARVELL—A mere trifle.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Yes, a mere trifle. A sum of \$100,000,000 is of no consequence if you can only paralyze the business of the country and show the people on the other side that they should not invest in the stocks of this country—that the country is making rapid strides towards bankruptcy. To be sure some hon. gentlemen on the other side have not joined in that cry; a large majority of them have always sustained any increase of the public debt for proper purposes, and the Government can only be judged by that. If we owed \$100,000,000 and had not anything to show for it we would be in a worse position than we are now.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—The country has supported the expenditure.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Yes, the country has endorsed it and has given a verdict on it already and will again.

HON. MR. POWER—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. PLUMB—The hon. gentleman opposite knows perfectly well the kind of agitation that has been going on through the country, that the people take no stock in that kind of agitation, and that it has not had the effect intended. The hon. gentleman knows that the increase of the public debt has not equalled the expenditure on capital account. It has been the policy of the party to which

HON. MR. PLUMB.