

point, but I think I have said quite enough to show at least the opinions that I hold in reference to the policy of the government, their abnegation of principle, their total disregard of all promises that they ever made; and we must look forward in the future, I suppose, to a continuance of something of the same kind. I hope they will never adopt their free trade doctrines in this country, but I would like them to be honest and straightforward and admit that they have changed their opinions and know that it cannot be carried out, and that they will continue to protect all industries in this country to the fullest possible extent.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I will begin my observations to-day like my hon. friend opposite, by congratulating the mover and seconder of the address in reply to His Excellency's speech upon the very lucid and clear statements which they have made with regard to the public policy foreshadowed in that speech. These hon. gentlemen have acquitted themselves with credit in the addresses which they have delivered to this House, but they have done precisely what I had no doubt they would do when they undertook the honourable and dignified task of replying to his Excellency's speech. I may say that I thank my hon. friend for the very kind observation which he has addressed to this assembly in respect to myself. As leader of this House I shall endeavour to discharge my duties in a way consistent with the duties and functions of this dignified chamber, and I trust that I shall receive, and I have no doubt I shall receive from hon. gentlemen, that consideration and that fair treatment which they, I am sure, will be always ready to bestow upon one who relies upon them for a support for those measures which he believes to be in the public interest. Now my hon. friend, while he said some kind things with regard to myself, nevertheless said some very hard things with regard to the government of which I am a member, and in respect to a policy for which I with my colleagues am responsible. The hon. gentleman thinks that we are rather a dishonest group of persons, at all events politically, and that there is nothing that he can say of us that is worse than we merit. Now, I do not agree with my hon. friend in that particular. I am sure that this hon. assembly will not be surprised at my dissent, and I think I

shall be able to show that the hon. gentleman has taken rather a jaundiced view of the position of the government, and that they are not chargeable with all those inconsistencies and with all those derelictions of duty which the hon. gentleman has with so much force, attributed to us. The hon. gentleman complains of what is in the speech and he complains of what is not there. The hon. gentleman reminded me, in the address which he delivered to the House, of a sermon that was preached by a western minister many years ago, in which he said his subject naturally divided itself into three parts, and he would discuss them. In the first place he would tell them what they knew and he did not know, and in the second place he would tell them what he knew and they did not know, and in the third place he would tell them what neither of them knew. Now the hon. gentleman has made a division, not simply of the policy of the government foreshadowed in the speech, the work of the session, but he has decried everything to which he thinks the government of the day is committed, and although the policy of the administration was marked out for a period of five years, he complains that the whole work of legislation which the government has promised to undertake is not foreshadowed in the speech from the Throne and undertaken in a single session. Now this would be a heroic work for which I confess myself—and I believe my colleagues will join me in that confession—that we are altogether unable to accomplish in a single session, and I doubt very much whether my hon. friend would not think us unreasonable if he were in our places and we were to make similar demands at his hands. The hon. leader of the opposition in this House has told us that the country is prosperous. He admits that; it is idle to deny it under the circumstances. The trade and navigation returns, the state of the revenue, all proclaim the fact, but my hon. friend says the government deserves no credit for this. It is only when my hon. friend was in power; it is only when my hon. friend was associated with some of the colleagues that are here and some elsewhere that the hon. gentleman was willing to claim, or thought right to claim, credit to the administration for every good that the country received. If the prices were high for farm products, if the crop was abundant, if the season was favourable for