

average annual increase of \$133,821, a total increase of 1016 per cent., or an annual average increase of 169 per cent., or ninety-six times faster than the increase in the population.

### Public Works Management.

In Public Works chargeable to Revenue—that is the management of our public works, our railways and canals—we started, in 1868, with an expenditure of \$626,286; gentlemen opposite ran up the expenditure to \$2,389,679 in 1874, an increase of \$1,763,393, or 281 per cent., an average annual increase of \$293,898, or 47 per cent., an increase twenty-seven times faster than the increase in the population of the country. Then the incompetents came in and, starting with the expenditure of \$2,889,679, in 1874, in four years they had increased it to \$2,471,437, an increase of \$81,758, or 3½ per cent. for the period. Then the gentlemen opposite took charge of the administration of that Department again, and commencing with an expenditure of \$2,471,437, in 1878, they had increased that expenditure to \$3,302,791 in 1884, an increase of \$831,354, or 33 per cent., an average annual increase of \$138,559, or 5½ per cent. This is the record. These are the comparisons, these are the contrasts that exist between the management of these Departments by the two Governments, and nothing could be more striking, nothing could be more satisfactory as an evidence of the economy and careful management of these affairs upon the one hand, and the recklessness which characterises the management of these affairs upon the other.

### Causes for Alarm.

What is the significance to us, as a people, of our increasing expenditure and our diminishing revenue? Is there any cause for alarm in the future? Is there any cause for supposing that my hon. friend will be able to boast of surpluses of \$1,000,000 or \$5,000,000 a year in the near future? Is there any cause for fear that he, too, may be troubled with deficits, that he may possibly be characterised by

some person opposed to him in politics as the "King of Deficits," as my hon. friend was a short time since? With a scale of expenditure this year reaching \$33,000,000, with a shrinkage in revenue from Customs and Excise of \$3,786,000 in the last year, with these causes in operation, I say that there is reason for grave alarm; I say that there is a danger that our finances may break down; I say that there is reason, good reason, for the inability of the Government to place the \$25,000,000 loan about to fall due; I say that there is good reason for their having a floating debt of from \$13,000,000 to \$15,000,000; I say that there is reason for their being obliged to resort to the desperate shifts which the man in business resorts to whose credit is not good and who goes "shinning" around the streets attempting to raise money to meet a note which is due and is threatened with protest. We have placed ourselves in a position of grave embarrassment, in consequence of reckless extravagance and mismanagement of the affairs of the country. I do not blame my hon. friend, who is the creature, the victim, of circumstances. He undoubtedly has been forced to a great degree into the position in which he is, but, whether forced or not, whether responsible or not, the difficulties which threaten the country are none the less real, and none the less to be lamented.

### Our Manufacturing Industries.

And, now, a few words in regard to our manufacturing industries, and I am done.

Mr. RYKERT. That is good.

Mr. CHARLTON. I hear the Minister of Customs say "that is good."

Mr. BOWELL. No; you did not.

Mr. CHARLTON. I am afraid he is like the old Scotch elder, who was accused of being hard-headed and not open to conviction, and who denied the accusation, and stated that he was open to conviction, "but," he added, "I would like to see the man who would convince me." That is the characteristic of my hon. friend opposite.

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