

if, on the contrary, it proved to be a revenue tariff, whether it would give the protection to the industries of the country which was demanded by the people, as evidenced by the elections of 1878; and necessarily we, who had given careful consideration to this matter, had to speculate to a certain extent with respect to its effect. But, Sir, in 1880 the opinions that we had entertained in 1879 were being confirmed by the experience of the nine months. In 1881 they were still stronger, because evidence had accumulated to show that our position was the correct one; and to-day we stand in an impregnable position with respect to the results of the Tariff, both for protection and revenue purposes. I recollect very well last Session, when I made my financial statement, that it showed an apparent deficit of \$1,500,000, and when I explained that, under the operation of the Tariff, it would have provided just about sufficient to meet the necessary expenditure had we not in the year previous received a large revenue on articles consumed in the year following, hon. gentlemen opposite laughed at that idea, declaring that the plea would not avail, and that the Government had a deficit to announce to the House. But what I stated was the fact. It shows that the producing power of the Tariff, as far as revenue is concerned, was such as to give us, if we had the \$700,000 of Customs collected in the year previous for goods consumed in the following year, and \$500,000 or \$600,000 of Excise collected in the year previous in anticipation of the change of Tariff, on goods consumed in the year following, there would not have been a deficit of more than \$200,000, showing how accurately and how fully the estimates of the Government were borne out.

THE SURPLUS.

But, to-day, we stand here not with any doubt as to its revenue producing power, but with evidence of the last year before us, with the Public Accounts and statements on the Table of the House, showing not only no deficit of even \$200,000, but, instead of an estimated surplus of \$2,000,000, there is a surplus of \$4,132,743 in the Treasury, as the result of its operations. Mr. Speaker, the hon. leader of the Opposition, in discussing the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne (I regret he is not present, and we all regret the circumstances which render his absence necessary), said that he could not understand why it was that the Government had asked the people to bear the additional