time, be discharged. (Hear, hear.) I need only remind the House that there are sources, to which I stated in December that I looked for diminishing the floating debt, which are not yet exhausted. We have in the legislation of this session the means which will enable the Government gradually, and without disturbance to any of the commercial interests of the country, to absorb the balance of that floating debt. We have made some progress in our negotiations with the Great Western Railway, with a view to realizing the considerable indebtedness of that corporation. We have not been idle either as to the indebtedness of the Bank of Upper Canada. There has been both legislation and executive action upon that. We also anticipate a fair amount from deposits to be made by Insurance Companies, as a security to the public; and there is now a measure before the House which will have this effect. Then there are the Post Office Savings Banks, which are doing a large measure of good; not withdrawing money from the banks, as has been stated, but accumulating the savings of the industrious classes in a way that must be productive of benefit to themselves, and be of advantage to the country. The views of the Government with reference to Savings Banks were explained in December, but so far action has been confined to the establishment of Post Office Savings Banks. As the House is aware, there have been established in the mother country not only Post Office Savings Banks but other Savings Banks whose money is invested in Government Securities, the former being not in opposition to but in harmony with the latter. But we have thought it inexpedient to establish other Government Savings Banks at this moment, till we have had further experience of the working of the Post Office Savings Banks. If the advantage of the security of the Government is to be given to those who desire to place their small savings in its possession, it should be so effected that this direct security should be given to the individual the moment the money leaves his hands. It will not do to have intermediate institutions which will receive from depositors their savings, and hand them over to the Government, because under that system there would be a period during which the depositor would be without the security of the Government. It will be seen by the House that it requires a great amount of machinery, and attention to a great many complicated details before such a system can be put in operation, without involving too large a cost. Such a machinery has been provided by the Post Office Department with reference to the Post Office Savings Banks, and it has been thought better that we should test this by time before we go further and establish what may more properly be called Government Savings Banks. Before passing on to another point, I wish to say a word with reference to a feeling which I have been informed exists to some degree in the country, that the Government is taking possession of too large an amount of the money which is needed for carrying on the commerce of the country. I think there is no ground for any such apprehension. I can assure the House that the Government will watch anxiously and vigilantly the effect of their measures in this respect, and will not withdraw from the banking institutions and the commercial interests of the country that capital which is