

with a magnanimity for which they had never ceased to take credit, particularly the hon. the Minister of Public Works. And they asked the people to contrast their magnificent administration and the wonderful benefits they conferred upon the country, by their patriotism and ability, with the failure, as they alleged, of those who succeeded them in power. The hon. the Minister of Public Works had alleged, in his usually loud tones, and strong language, that the late Administration destroyed the fabric which their predecessors had raised, and that they were responsible for the large expenditure and the deficits which had since occurred. Not only had they succeeded in persuading the constituencies throughout the country, if they were to judge by the electors, but there were many hon. members of the House who seemed really to believe that such was the fact, that the expenditures had grown up to their present extraordinary dimensions because of the maladministration of the late Government, and that the necessity for imposing these new taxes had been occasioned by something or other done by the late Administration, or something they neglected to do. They had heard this statement over and over again during the debate; but he (Mr. Anglin) always looked with surprise at every hon. gentleman so speaking, and scanned his features in order to ascertain if he made the statement seriously, and believed, himself, what he alleged, and he (Mr. Anglin) was forced to believe that, in most cases, the hon. members who made those statements, were really convinced of the truth of what they said. But who was it that increased the expenditure? It was increased from \$12,000,000 or \$14,000,000 during the first years of Confederation to \$23,000,000 or \$24,000,000 in 1873-74. This fact appeared clear and unquestionable to any one examining the Public Accounts and the Estimates: that that extraordinary expenditure was first fastened on the country by hon. gentlemen opposite. There was the increase of the subsidies to the Provinces. There was the adjustment of the debt between Ontario and Quebec. When put altogether, their Estimates for the last year they were in power were some \$23,500,000, or \$24,000,000. Why, then, should the

late Administration be held responsible for the increase? Where, when, or how, he would ask, were the late Government responsible for that increase? Where, when, or how did they make the addition which had been made to the permanent liabilities of the country? What was the reason that it was necessary, to-day, to increase the taxation of the country? They were told there was a deficit of \$2,000,000, and that it would be necessary to raise \$2,400,000. They were told that the amount of the fishery award was to be absorbed in meeting existing Canadian liabilities. He agreed to a great extent with the hon. member from Prince Edward Island, who maintained that that money belonged by right to the people of the Maritime Provinces, and more especially to the men who were engaged in the fisheries, from whom, in fact, all was taken for which that money was the equivalent. However, that money had been taken to meet liabilities. He thought he understood, from the late Finance Minister, that he contemplated using that money for a similar purpose, whether permanently or not he did not say; and he alleged, as a justification, the condition of the finances of the country. He (Mr. Anglin) did not know that anything the late Government had done had rendered it necessary now to increase taxation, and that proposition was emphatically denied on his side of the House. They denied that they had in the slightest degree increased the permanent liabilities of the country, except to an extent that was unavoidable. They were compelled, in order to meet the liabilities incurred by their predecessors, and the obligations they had imposed on the Government, to borrow a large amount of money. The interest must be paid on that money, and a sinking fund provided. To that extent the Government were compelled to increase the pecuniary liabilities of the country. Then there was the establishment of the Mounted Police in the North-West, that he believed the previous Government themselves were prepared to establish. The expense caused by this was enormous, but he thought it was regarded as a salutary measure. But, if any one of the hon. gentlemen now forming the majority of this House imagined that that expense could be dispensed with, he