

probably have an opportunity of cross-questioning the hon. gentleman shortly, because I propose at the earliest moment to find out from him what the receipts and expenditures of the first half of the month of April may be. Perhaps he has them now.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not carry them in my pocket, but I can bring them over on Monday. I do not sleep with them.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Nor carry them in your head, I presume; and I can understand why—because they might murder sleep under the present circumstances. Apart from that, here is a significant fact, which I also find in the statement of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman, be it remembered, was very strong some time ago in telling us that he was going to put a stop to the increase of the net debt; yet the total net debt on the 31st March, 1894, amounted to \$240,189,000, while on the 31st March, 1895, it amounted to \$248,150,000, being as nearly as possible an increase of \$8,000,000 in one year. The House will remember, Sir, as I said, that I am quite open to correction. If I have, in any shape or way overstated the facts, if I have in any shape or way misunderstood the hon. gentleman's statement, I will be ready at once to make amendment. The Speech informed us that His Excellency regrets that although the depression has not resulted in any considerable decrease in our foreign trade—

yet owing to low prices and recent reductions in and removal of taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from Customs and Excise. In order to produce equilibrium between revenue and expenditure for the coming year, it will be necessary to observe the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.

Well, Sir, I listened attentively to the Speech, I listened attentively to the speeches of the mover and seconder of this Address, and I listened attentively to the speech of the hon. Minister himself. Sir, the inference which I drew from these various speeches—and it is open to the Finance Minister to correct me if I am wrong—is this, that whether the deficit be five millions or whether the deficit be six millions, the hon. gentleman's recipe is to do nothing, the hon. gentleman proposes to fold his hands, the hon. gentleman hopes that by and by things will improve. The hon. gentleman reminds one of the peasant in Aesop's fable who sat down by the brink of a river waiting until all the water should flow away, when he expected to walk across. The hon. gentleman is without resource. All that the hon. gentleman can tell us is that he proposes to exercise economy. Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman knows that it is one thing to propose economy and another thing to practice it. The hon. gentleman has colleagues, some very close to him who do not propose to practice economy; colleagues who, during

the recent electioneering tour, stated to the public—and I think stated quite correctly—that the difference between them and those miserly Grits was that they were not afraid to spend the public money for the benefit of their friends. How does that comport with “the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.” And I think the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Ouimet) will have to be heard from. The hon. gentleman who, by the way, I am sorry to say I do not see in his place at the moment, has generally a tolerably extensive budget, and he has also various expensive relations who contribute to swell the expenditure from time to time. Now, Sir, I do not ask much from the hon. gentleman; but I think, under the circumstances, I have the right to ask for some information. If the statements that I have made be true, if it be the fact that there is to-day at the close of nine months an ascertained deficit of over five million dollars, I think, Sir, that although we are not entitled to ask the hon. gentleman for details, we are entitled to ask him whether he seriously proposes to allow this monstrous deficit to exist without taking any steps to reduce it or to equalize expenditure and revenue by imposing additional taxation. Judging from what he stated, I should imagine the hon. gentleman intends to do nothing. Judging from the tone of his speech, the hon. gentleman lives in hope and desires us to live also. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman can surely tell us—his policy must have been settled on this head long ago—whether it is part of his intention to meet that deficit by the imposition of an additional amount of taxation or not. He can likewise tell us whether he intends to add to the burden of the people by making any new and additional grants; and that is a thing that the House ought to be seized of at the earliest possible moment, under existing circumstances. The hon. gentleman might likewise tell us, does he propose to effect any new loans? Sir, I have taken the opportunity of analysing the statements of the amounts at the hon. gentleman's disposal; and, so far as I can see—and again I am open to correction—the hon. gentleman's recent loan, amounting to about \$10,700,000—I think that is about the amount it realized—appears to have entirely disappeared. Sir, I find that up to the 1st of April, 1895, we had incurred a capital expenditure of \$3,273,000; we had temporarily borrowed £500,000 sterling in England, which we have repaid; we had the deficit of 1894 to provide for, \$1,210,000; we have a deficit for the current year to date of \$5,016,000. So that against \$10,700,000, the hon. gentleman either has spent or will be called upon to provide for sums amounting to \$11,932,000, without counting any additional expenditure which may be incurred upon capital account within the next three months. Now, Sir, as to