

I say—our Tariff, had it been maintained, would have provided an ample revenue the moment trade revived. The Tariff of hon. gentlemen opposite, as the statements of 1879 and 1880 show, wholly failed to afford a revenue until that revival took place. I say further—if, instead of having recourse to a comparison of my hon. friend's Administration in difficult times, with their Administration in prosperous times, hon. gentlemen opposite compare their Administration in a time at all approaching the stringency we had to face, my hon. friend has not the faintest cause to fear a comparison of his Administration with the Administration of Sir John A. Macdonald in former years of stringency. More, Sir—I say that our policy prevailed the taxes and the expenditure of the country would have been many millions a year less to-day than they are now, and the taxation would have been infinitely more fairly levied. I say, as I have said before, that had the people been permitted, as we would have permitted them, to use the great advantages which presented themselves in Manitoba, that Province to-day would have contained half a million of prosperous and contented settlers, instead of being as the hon. gentleman well knows a mass of discontent. I say there would have been no tyrannical monopolies; and although there would have been undoubtedly a considerable removal from Ontario, that would have gone to swell the population of our country, and not the population of the United States. Now, Sir, in all this I am not claiming very much. I am only claiming that affairs would have been administered with reasonable prudence, and reasonable economy, and reasonable discretion; and I say, that as much as could have been done in Manitoba, has been done again and again in the United States. Now, Sir, I do not want, as the hon. gentlemen did, to enter on the realm of prophecy; I am not going to venture on any predictions. But I may recall the past. I may recall the fact that, in 1873, under somewhat similar circumstances, the hon. gentleman thought there was a long career

of prosperity awaiting us; and I may recall to him the fact that, scarcely were the words out of his mouth, as scarcely were the words out of his mouth last year, before the fair prospect was overclouded. Now, Sir, if the hon. gentleman has a period of commercial difficulty before him—though I trust he will not be called upon to face any such commercial disaster as overtook the country during the Administration of my hon. friend—I ask him, and I ask the House, how he is prepared to meet it. Sir, our resources have been dissipated, while our liabilities have been indefinitely increased. It is quiet on the cards, if the hon. gentleman's own policy should be carried out, and our imports should be reduced to the level of exports, that instead of having \$30,000,000 or \$31,000,000 to rely on, he might find himself reduced to \$26,000,000 or \$27,000,000; while at the same time he has swollen his expenditure to such a figure that there is scarcely any reasonable ground for believing that it can be reduced below \$30,000,000 or \$31,000,000. Now we have to confront, not only this grievous taxation, but an absolute reduction in the population of our richest Province, and there is this difference, at any rate, between the trouble which may overtake us now and the trouble which overtook us in 1874, that although it may be true that in both cases something was due to the extravagance of the people themselves, though more is due, I think, to unavoidable misfortunes, which could not by any possibility be foreseen or prevented, still in the present instance when there have been no disasters of any real importance, we have nothing to thank but our own wilful imprudence for the position we are in to-day. We have nothing to thank but our own folly if the advantages of our position have been thrown away and prove insufficient to save us from serious reverses. Now, if I am to sum up the losses we have sustained, I feel some difficulty in doing it. I believe the excessive taxation to which the hon. gentleman has subjected this country, has involved a loss of not less than \$50,000,000 in the course of the last five years; I