

to \$1,272,000 up to that period. But, taking the figures of the hon. Minister given the other night, namely, a further expenditure of \$10,000,000 a year for the two first years, and \$5,000,000 a year for each of the eight following years, allowing interest on these at 5 per cent., and on the old balance at 4 per cent.; and taking the receipts from lands as the hon. Minister himself erroneously estimated them, then the result would be a yearly deficiency for interest so large as to run up in the third year to \$3,332,000, and in the sixth year to stand at \$698,000. The account gets to the credit side in the year 1887, and from that time the interest is paid, and something is available towards the principal; but the practical result would be a credit, according to that calculation, not compounding the interest in the earlier period or crediting the later yearly surpluses to capital until the close of the term, of \$12,631,000 only to the capital account of the Pacific Railway. But according to the corrected calculations, there would be a deficit of interest, swelling each year until in 1885 it reaches a sum of over five millions, thence gradually diminishing, until at the close of the term it stands at \$1,478,000, so that the practical result would be that, at the close of the term there would be nothing accomplished out of the proceeds of the lands, except to pay the bulk of the interest on the cost of construction, and the whole capital account, with a portion of interest, would remain due. Let me summarise these results—the statement of the hon. First Minister gave him a net return from lands of \$68,900,000, against an expenditure of \$60,000,000, leaving a credit balance of \$8,900,000. The corrected statement gives him a net return of \$44,470,000 only, and an expenditure for principal of \$60,000,000, and for interest, excluding arrears of interest, of \$23,560,000, in all \$83,560,000, leaving a debit balance of \$39,090,000—a trifling error in the grand result of about \$48,000,000. And, when you remember that even this calculation is, as I have proved, based upon wholly visionary estimates, I think it is established that, as business men, we cannot build largely on the taxes of this country being lightened in respect of the construction of this Railway within the next few years.

My conclusion is this, that although we may receive, and I hope we will receive, in the time to come, a considerable revenue from our lands in the North-West, yet we cannot, as prudent men, expect that we will early receive such a large amount, or anything approaching it, or anything approaching one-half the amount which the hon. Minister suggested; that we cannot expect that the immediate charge and strain upon the resources of the country, involved in the Ministerial programme, will be early relieved by the receipts from lands. We must look, therefore, to our other resources for the present bearing of that strain, and when these large receipts do come in they will come in only to recoup us for the long years of arrears of interest which will meantime have accrued, and will not do much towards the liquidation of the original cost. These fantastic calculations do not bear investigation. They are based on extravagant speculations in everything tending to increase the receipts, and on erroneous figures besides; they are based on untrustworthy estimates in everything tending to diminish the charge, and on erroneous figures besides; and, on the whole, I declare that no sane business man would incur large liabilities on the chance of meeting them out of such resources. Now, Sir, I for one, have no wish to prevent any expenditure which is essential for the settlement of the country. I wish the House to understand that that is, at any rate, no part of my policy. On that subject, as I have said, the die is cast. Most of us believe that we have a prospect there; and I want all to unite in the effort to realise that prospect. I think even those who do not believe it to be so bright as others do will agree in making the effort. I wish that we should direct our exertions to every step calculated to make the best of that country; to settle it at the earliest day; to give it as soon as possible a productive population, and to make it a prosperous and influential portion of the Dominion. It is because I want the great experiment to have a fair chance of success, because I believe that, committed as we are, it is our duty and our interest to give it that chance of success, that I implore the House to direct its undivided attention at present to this point; to apply the avail-