

nation; there is an avowed and admitted depression in trade; and when this is put along with the principle I have just mentioned, I say that if there ever are circumstances in which the Government is justified in coming to the assistance of those engaged in trade, they exist now. In the first place, our manufactures are in their infancy; in the second place, there is a great depression; and in the third place, there is an admitted deficiency in the revenue. All these reasons combine to show that the Government—a paternal Government, which it is the boast of the hon. gentlemen opposite that they are—should intervene to alleviate the misery (because it amounts to misery) which now exists in this country, and to protect our credit. As to what the deficiency may be we cannot tell. Strange to say, the Finance Minister, in the long and able speech which he made, did not state that, although it was the purpose of that speech to state what he estimated the revenue to be, what he estimated the expenditure to be, and what the deficiency was to be if there was to be any deficiency. I ask any hon. gentleman who heard that speech, if he can tell me now what the deficiency is to be on the 1st of July next. We are told that a system of economy is to be followed, but how can this House tell whether those economies will be sufficient unless the hon. gentleman tells us what the deficiency will be? For the hon. gentleman not to tell us was like performing the play of "Hamlet" with Hamlet left out. I can only account for his omitting to give us that information on the supposition that his speech was prepared for delivery before the Government changed their intention of bringing down an alteration in the tariff. I have heard it stated—I think my hon. friend the Minister of Justice stated it the other day—that the Government had had no intention of altering the tariff. Well, of course, my hon. friend would not have stated that if it were not true. It may be perfectly true that the Government did not reduce the change to an Order in Council, and that they did not submit it to the Governor General. I assume that something of that kind would have would have justified the hon. gentle-

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man in making that statement; but on the whole the circumstances show that the intention of the Government—or at all events that the intention of the leading members and the head of the Government—was to bring down some alteration in the tariff, and an alteration in the direction of protection to our manufacturers. Why, the member for Montreal West stated in his place that certainly the deputations which waited on the members of the Government on their invitation left them with the impression on their minds that there was going to be an alteration. Every one of those parties who communicated on the subject with hon. gentlemen opposite, left them with the firm belief that an increase in the tariff would be announced; and I have no doubt that when the member for Montreal West made a statement to that effect in Montreal, and afterwards told us here he was too busy in considering the question of the tariff to sit on the Committee of my hon. friend from Bothwell, he must have thought he had received sufficient information to warrant him, as a public man and as a trader, in making that announcement. Some of those gentlemen too whom I saw up here the other day from Montreal, one of them I was told was a leading Grit, said it was an insult to them. We have been asked, he said, in Montreal to make some suggestions about the alterations in the tariff, and we interested ourselves in that subject, and if the Government had had no intention of making an alteration in the tariff, why did they give us the trouble of addressing ourselves to such a task? Why ask us to go into the question of the tariff at all? Why ask the hon. member for Montreal West to go and study the matter, if the Government had not come to the conclusion to make any alteration? Why should hon. gentlemen have allowed it to go abroad that they intended to make a change, to the great injury of the trade of the country, for it is a fact that the slightest hint of that kind disturbs the public confidence, and works instantaneous and direct mischief? As I intend to make it my duty to ask this House, if I am spared, to accept the resolution I have already read, I shall not occupy the House at this late