

able to offer a great many inducements to immigrants which we cannot offer, and that we have wantonly and wilfully destroyed the advantages which we possessed and which might have enabled us to a great extent to have counteracted many of the superior advantages which the United States possess. Under the hon. gentleman's régime, the lesson taught to Provinces and to constituencies has been worse. The hon. gentleman knows right well that, in entering into a Confederation like ours, it was the duty of the statesmen to whom it was confided to mould and shape our young Confederation, to imprint upon the minds of the people, and upon the Provinces forming that Confederation, the duty of relying to the utmost extent upon themselves. How has that duty been discharged? We know at the present moment that there is not a Province and that there is hardly a constituency that has not been taught the evil lesson of looking to Ottawa for assistance; taught to believe that the Dominion Government possess a boundless treasury, out of which all manner of grants and aids can be given to Province or constituency in return for its political support, and the result is shown in the addition of thirteen millions to our expenditure, and in a deficit which is known already to amount to five millions, and is likely to amount to eight before the year is closed. I say to the First Minister, as I have said before to the House, that, when that state of things has arrived, the first duty of the Opposition is to proclaim the facts to the country, and by every means in its power to endeavor to arouse the people to a proper sense of the manner in which their resources are being squandered. I say here, as I have said elsewhere, and as I shall repeat, that the corruption which now prevails in this country is a disgrace to any civilised community, that our condition is far worse than any that has been known in the course of English history, at least from the days of Walpole to the present time, and that, unless a speedy check is put to it, we shall find the edifice of Confederation, which we all desire to see firmly established, which we all desire to see prosper—quite as much on this side as on the other side—we shall find that it has been reared on a false basis, and that the evil lesson which the hon. gentleman has, at any rate during the latter part of his career, been teaching to all portions of this Confederation, will surely lead to its dissolution.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I do not desire to prolong this debate, or to follow the hon. gentleman in the speech he has just delivered. The subjects to which he has incidentally referred, will, no doubt, be the theme of discussion at different periods during this Session, and we will have abundant opportunity to show to the House and to the country how little basis there is for the concluding portion of the hon. gentleman's speech. I simply rise to point out how unfairly the hon. gentleman has quoted from a speech delivered by the hon. the First Minister in Toronto some time ago, on the subject of Imperial federation. The hon. gentleman was good enough to cite words of the right hon. gentleman in a speech which he delivered in England at a banquet given to him at the St. George's Club, and to put in contrast with them words which he alleged, and no doubt thought, were uttered by him in Toronto. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, because we have had the words read to us twice to-night, exactly what the right hon. gentleman is reported to have said in England. The general drift of his statement was that the people of Canada would be quite prepared to enter into an alliance which would be practically an alliance offensive and defensive with the Empire, and that, when the Empire was in difficulties, when the Mother Country found itself face to face with an enemy, the people of Canada will be willing, if necessary, to spend their last shilling and give their last man in defence of the Empire.

The hon. gentleman is kind enough to say that this is in entire opposition to the views expressed by the First Minister at Toronto. I desire, Sir, at this stage, that it may go upon record with the statements which have just been made, simply to cite the words uttered in the city of Toronto, so that the hon. gentleman may see how almost identical in words was the speech at Toronto compared with the speech in London:

"It has been represented that I was in favor of federation with the Imperial Parliament. I never made any such statement; I never had any such opinion, and believe that Canada should still preserve our Canadian Parliament. Canada is the best judge of the best means of governing herself. I believe that Canadian statesmen only can be confided with the trust of putting burdens upon the shoulders of our people, and that no Parliament sitting in England, however great and able it may be, and although Canada may be represented upon it, can faithfully, fully and satisfactorily administer our affairs. The word 'confederation' means a union by treaty, and I believe that a treaty can be made between England and Canada by which we can have mutual commercial advantages, and a common system of offence and defence. The Australian colonies will soon be united in a bond similar to, though, perhaps, not identical with, the Canadian Confederation. Then what will we see? We will see England, with her thirty-five millions, united to Canada with her five millions, soon to become twice that number, and to Australia with a similar population; and the world will know that if the Old Mother Country is attacked, she has two auxiliary nations standing at her back, and bound to make a common cause with her. We know that the nation that commands the sea, commands the world. England is now the chief maritime power in the world. Canada is already, in her commercial marine, the fourth power in the world, and Australia, that vast continent, surrounded by colonies resting on the sea, must have a navy too. The combined naval forces of those three powers will form the great police of the world. They will control the seas of the world, and if they control the seas of the world, they will keep the peace of the world. It has been said that we are running great risks in venturing to make common cause with England. Gentlemen, if I know the people of Canada aright, they are willing to run those risks. But there really is no risk. When any foreign nation knows that the thirty-five millions of people in England, and the twenty millions in the different colonies, forming one great nation, will exert all their military and naval power in one common cause, that fact will prevent possible war with England, and England will be in an as complete moral domination of the world, as was the Roman Empire in the days of old."

Mr. Speaker, I think, in the face of that, it may fairly be left to the judgment of this House and the country, to say whether the statement of the right hon. the First Minister made in England was not in precise accord with the statement made by him in Toronto, and, some ten years ago, in the City of Montreal, when he first, if I remember rightly, on a public occasion, elaborated the scheme which he has since, on two or three occasions, referred to with marvellous consistency as to the nature of his proposal, and in substantially the same words.

Mr. DAVIES. I do not desire to refer to many subjects which have been discussed this evening, but I rise only for the purpose of saying a word or two upon the important subject referred to by the right hon. leader of the Government, and the policy which the Government thought fit to pursue with reference to the very important subject of the fisheries and reciprocity. Before I refer to the policy of the Government, I wish to make one remark with reference to a statement made by the hon. gentleman who moved the Address this evening, the member for the City and County of St. John (Mr. Everett). I refer to it, because he is a Maritime Province man, and will be supposed by those who live in the Upper Provinces, to be acquainted with the matter. The hon. gentleman said that so far as the Maritime Provinces were concerned, since the Intercolonial Railway was built, there had been an exchange of product between the east and the west. So far as one part of his statement is concerned, I believe he is correct, for the people of the east have been compelled to purchase largely from the manufacturers of the west, and to pay through the nose pretty dearly for it. But, Sir, I deny there has been any exchange of products, any interchange of trade. I say no man who is acquainted with the fish trade of the Maritime Provinces, can truly assert that any reasonable proportion of the catch of those Provinces, is consumed or bought by the Province of