

ing from ocean to ocean; we should have done a great deal towards settling up the North-West; we should have begun building up the country in a way that I do not think any other nation ever was built up, and we should have a strong probability of there flowing into our North-West Territories a very large population. supposing that the population went in there at the rate of 50,000 persons per annum—it is not a very large calculation—supposing there were 50,000 persons went in there every year for five years, we should have at the end of that time a population of 250,000 in the North-West. Statistics show that every person in that country pays at the rate of \$6 a head for taxation on customs and excise alone. At the end of five years we should have 250,000 people in there paying \$6 a head for taxation, so that if you take it in that light you not only run no risk, but are certain not to lose. Ultimately if that population goes in you will have a gain, even if you have a large deficit in the running of the railway, a deficit which I have, for the purpose of this argument, put at \$1,600,000 per annum. But you will have 250,000 of a population, and you will gain more by way of revenue than you have lost by having to make up that deficit in the running of the railway. However, the more likely result is that the road will pay. Why should we doubt, if it pays so well in its incipient stage, as more grain is produced in the west, and as more lumber is wanted, and all the animation and business and life of a new country increases—why should we doubt or mistrust that this road will pay? I think the probabilities are that the road will pay handsomely, but if it does not pay the interest on its cost, what would be the loss to the country then?

HON. MR. POWER—How about the loan?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—The loan will be repaid if the enterprise is a success, which I hope and believe it will be. But I am supposing now that the road is not a success, if the loan is not repaid there will be this deficit; but if it is repaid we shall have acquired the road for \$55,000,000 in cash, and we shall have built up a new country which in the future may be as

populous, and perhaps as powerful as Russia. Why, in the far future, should we not have a country there as powerful and as wealthy as Russia? The land is in the same latitude as Russia; the country produces about the same cereals as Russia does. Russia has now a population of 80,000,000, and exports \$40,000,000 in cereals alone, and what is there to make us believe that the North West may not be as populous and wealthy, and do as much for its inhabitants as Russia, and more?

HON. MR. POWER—If it does no better than Russia it is a pretty poor thing.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I am astonished at the remark of the hon. gentleman. Russia has 80,000,000 inhabitants. If we get 80,000,000 inhabitants into our North West shall we not then have done a great work for this country? Will not those who succeed us say that we were strong of purpose, resolute of heart, big enough in our ideas to take the steps which are necessary to build up a new country? I think it is as true in this as in everything, that a nerveless, hopeless arm will never build up a country.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Or decrying it either.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—It requires a belief in the future of the country, and a vigor that has been shown by this Administration, to accomplish a great national object such as this.

HON. MR. POWER—The administration has shown great energy in building up a public debt anyway.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—And we have something to show for the debt, as I have endeavored to point out to the House. There is one other statement which I desire to submit to hon. gentlemen, and it is with reference to the six and a half million dollars which is now the floating debt of the company. I desire to satisfy the House how this six and a half millions of debt was incurred. A statement was prepared, which was used in the first place by Hon. Mr. Pope in the other branch of parliament, showing how