

this year, provided there is not an increase of revenue. Now, we have had the returns from the Custom and Excise receipts for nine months laid on the table to-day. Taking them, and adding the same amount for the remaining three months as was given by the corresponding three months of last year, we find that it is actually less than the receipts of last year by \$105,000—that is, taking the whole of the Dominion, except the city of St. John, where the sad destruction of property caused increased imports, making an increase of revenue of \$282,000. So that, judging by the returns of revenue submitted, there will be, taking the benefit of the St. John fire, a net gain of \$177,000. There has also, we find, been an increase from Public Works, railways and canals, but there will be increased expenses to charge against that increase of receipts. But, for the time, giving them the full benefit of it, the total increase in revenue would be, say, \$600,000. This will leave a deficit of \$1,567,000 as near as can be calculated, so far as we have the returns. In the face of such a result is it not marvellous that the Government goes on continuing and even increasing our enormous expenditures, which must assuredly result in increased taxation in some form? The hon. Secretary of State and his supporter, the Senator from Montreal, call upon my friend (Mr. Macpherson) beside me to give to the public the policy by which he claims that the condition of the country may be improved, and then they go on to say that in any scheme we have or may have, they can see nothing but increased taxation. We deny that any scheme, entertained for a moment by us, is designed to increase in the slightest the burdens of our people, and it comes with an ill grace from the gentlemen opposite, to charge us with desiring to impose additional taxation on the prime necessities of life, when that is just the course they have been pursuing; and not that alone—not only increasing the taxes on the necessities of life, but by their trade policy rendering it more difficult, for want of remunerative employment, to procure these necessities. They were hardly three months in power when they increased the taxation three millions a year, and as opportunity offers, they add to it. From their policy and extravagant expenditure, they have a succession of

deficits of nearly two millions a year, and they have not met these by additional taxes, for the only reason that they are undecided where or how to levy the necessary taxes. They have raised the 15 per cent. *ad valorem* to 17½; they have added to the duties on spirits and tobacco; whilst tea, coffee, and other things, free under the late Government, have been taxed; and they now only pause because they know not where else to lay the tax-gatherer's hand heavier. They would tax the water we drink, and the air we breathe, if they only knew by what means they could collect the revenue. Not long ago I read an article written by one of their party of free-traders in which he argued that it is immaterial in what mode the taxation is collected, and he very gravely proposed a tax on milk. Should the article meet the eye of the Government, we must not be surprised (inasmuch as it accords with their policy) to find the Ministers of Excise and Finance, having taxed the tea and coffee of our breakfast table (which the late Government made free) imposing an excise on milk; regulating the rich man's cream and the poor man's milk dish; whilst the Minister of Justice frames clauses for the prosecution of the infant on its mother's breast, should it exceed the regulations of their lacteal tariff. Time, however, will not allow me to enlarge farther on the trade policies held by the two parties, nor will it permit of a consideration of all the items upon which we are asked to pass to-night. We can do little more than enter our strong protest against their general extravagance and appalling recklessness in the condition of our trade and revenue. A few words on one or two items in the Bill. We are asked for an appropriation, and thus to sanction the extension of the Georgian Bay Branch to connect with the Canada Central. There is, perhaps, no fact more plain than that the successful settlement and prosperity of our great North-West depends upon our having direct and easy communication through our own territory with it. The settlement and prosperity of that great prairie land with direct communication with the rest of Canada must have an immense influence on our trade, manufactures and general progress, and yet the Government whilst they on the floors of Parliament, on the platform at picnics