his acquittal, but he was a far-seeing individual in some respects, and he made up his mind that, if he was defeated, he would leave a precious legacy to his successors. He calculated, and with reason, that if he went out having added heavily to the annual expenditure, and in a way which could not be reduced, and leaving besides a vast mass of liabilities which had to be met, a new ministry would be very hard put to it to make both ends meet, and would probably have to inflict heavy taxes and to make unpopular economies to meet the deficiency.

REPORTER. You think Sir John had this object in mind?

SIR RICHARD. Well, I had heard him discuss such a policy more than once in old times. But apart from this, the facts all point that way. But a few months before Sir John had made a very sensible speech in answer to certain demands of some of his supporters, in which he took strong ground on the expediency of finishing the works we had in hand, and notably our canal system and the Inter-colonial Railway, and of generally carefully limiting expenditure before we plunged into new works. Also prior to Mr. Huntingdon's attack we had heard nothing of the various new outlays he subsequently introduced. Altogether I do not think I do him any wrong in saying that but for that attack he would never have made most of the additions he did to the public expenditure in 1873, and further that he did thoroughly understand how serious our obligations were. As a matter of fact, the additions he made to our fixed charges within the two or three months subsequent to Mr. Huntingdon's motion would, if capitalized, have been fully equal to doubling our then national debt. Unfortunately he had lost, by the retire-ment of Sir Francis Hincks, the only man in his Cabinet who was capable of mastering the financial position, and I am bound to say that had Sir Francis Hincks been then Minister of Finance I do not believe he would ever have consented to these increased expenditures without at the same time making due provision to meet them.

REPORTER. How did things actually turn out?