

buffalo, subsisting upon the natural herbage of the soil, and we all know that domestic cattle are closely allied to the buffalo. So we have there a country that can produce both meat and breadstuffs in abundance, and this fact alone, with conditions for the incoming settler as favourable as those offered to him in the United States, will, now that the tide of settlement is steadily flowing westward, guarantee ample traffic for at least one trunk line of communication. The fact is that the population going into the country and the products coming out of it will, from the day it is opened, pay the running expenses and the interest on the capital. I therefore have no apprehension on the score of ultimate indemnity, and while I feel confident that our position and prospects are such as to warrant the Government in going on with the work, I should like to be sure that no more expenditure will be made than is absolutely necessary until we are a little farther advanced. Hon. gentlemen opposite have stated that the Tariff is the great difficulty, and that its operation will tend to prevent the prosecution of the work. On that point I will just say, that in my opinion that question was most fully discussed and considered by the electors of this country at the last election, and with what result? 40,000 Liberals voted in favour of the candidates supporting the present Premier. Why? Not because of his antecedents as a party politician, or the principles he was supposed to hold, but because they had confidence in his statesmanship and patriotism and his intention to carry out his pledge to protect the industries of the country. Well, Sir, the people having demanded that the industries of this country should be protected by a rearrangement of the Tariff, I venture to suggest that it is no compliment to our institutions, no compliment to the intelligence of the people of this Dominion, to tell them, before the policy they resolved upon has had a fair trial, "You made a mistake in demanding that policy." On the contrary, I think the great mistake the hon. member for West Durham makes, as a politician, is this,—he is setting himself up against the declared opinion, the settled verdict of the people. He, a lawyer, for many years buried in his briefs, sets himself up as an expert in finance and trade,

in opposition to the opinions of the commercial men, the manufacturers and the most experienced public men of the country, and contemns the judgment of the people at large in calling for the National Policy! He, a Liberal, a man of the people, comes here and declares that the Government is deserving of censure for carrying out the well-understood wishes of the people! Sir, it is a mistake to do this. The National Policy must have a fair trial. It has already proved a success, financially, inasmuch as it has given us, instead of a deficit of \$2,000,000—the normal condition under the hon. gentleman and his friends—a deficit of only half a million. It is the duty of the Government to maintain and carry out this policy. It is also its duty to exercise economy in the administration of public affairs. I was afraid just before the opening of the House, that the hon. the Minister of Railways would attempt to carry out his idea of building the Railway on the north shore of Lake Superior, but I am glad to find that the hon. gentleman's colleagues have induced him to abandon that part of the line for the present. I am also glad to find that it has been decided to proceed cautiously with the work in British Columbia. Under all these circumstances, I shall oppose the Resolution of the hon. member for West Durham. If the mover of the Resolution were logical, he would demand the abandonment of the work in British Columbia. Instead of doing that, he only asks for delay, and thereby affirms that the road shall be built at some future time. But probably the Resolution was framed in this way, to denounce the hon. gentleman's former leader, and to contradict the assertion of the organ of his party, that the Railway should be pushed on as rapidly as possible. But the motion is also a declaration of want of confidence in the Government. In view of all that has been said in favour of the Resolution, as respects its language and form—which has been little—and as respects its political consequences, if adopted, which, though not expressed, we can infer, I believe no independent supporter of the Government can possibly vote for it. I, at all events, will not assist to turn out the present Government in order to turn in the Government of the hon. member for Lambton.