

the hon. gentleman say just now, speaking of the appointment of Mr. Wood in Manitoba? Mr. Wood, he said, had been bribed to desert his party, and was therefore unworthy of being made a judge; and if Mr. Wood had been bribed to desert his party and was therefore unworthy of being made a judge, what are we to say of the conduct of the hon. gentleman who bribed Mr. McIsaac to desert his party and, therefore appointed a man who, on his own showing, was unworthy to be made a judge. If the hon. gentleman is able to point out any difference, I shall be happy to give him the floor.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We will attend to that.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I shall be very glad, indeed, to hear the hon. gentleman's explanations, and I only regret that there are so few present who, like myself, remember the hon. gentleman's fiery denunciations of the same act when committed by the late Mr. John Sandfield Macdonald in 1863.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman voted for that motion.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I did, and I shall be very happy to vote for a precisely similar motion, and I hope we will have the opportunity before very long. Now, looking at this Speech which has been put into our hands, I say that the hon. the First Minister, in his remarks, wholly ignored the cause for alarm which my hon. friend beside me (Mr. Blake) declared existed in the present condition of the country. I do not know that the hon. gentleman cares very much what may be the result after. I am very much afraid that he is not only resigned to seeing the deluge come after him, but that in some respect he would like—

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Order.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—to be able to believe—

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Order.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—that when—I will not say when the hon. gentleman ceases to have any use for us—but when he ceases to be Prime Minister, the whole fabric, which he boasts to have erected with such skill and care, shall fall to pieces. But I will say this: Looking at the facts which are declared in the official returns that have been for months before the country, I cannot understand how any hon. gentleman who has paid the smallest attention to the financial affairs of the country can fail to perceive that our present position is already perilous in the extreme. What do we find in the *Gazette's* statement brought down by the hon. gentleman himself. Last year we had a deficit of 2½ millions, the largest deficit which has existed since Confederation; we find that in the seven months which have elapsed since the commencement of the current year, the deficit was run up to \$5,100,000 in round numbers; we find that the volume of trade has materially shrunk within the space of the last twelve months; we find that neither have we been exporting or importing as largely as previously; we find—and this is a point to which hon. gentlemen profess to pay great attention—that the balance of trade has gone, during the last four or five years very heavily indeed against this country. I recollect quite distinctly, in 1880, when a very considerable deficit was ascertained to exist, the then Finance Minister took upon him to inform us it was a matter of no consequence, because our exports balanced our imports. Since that period, five years have elapsed; and we find that, whereas we imported for consumption in those five years an amount of \$538,278,000, our total exports of our own produce, bullion included, amounted to barely \$429,975,000, so that, on these gentlemen's own showing, although they came into power pledged to redress the balance of trade which they alleged was so much against us

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

in the previous years, they have accumulated an adverse balance against us in the last five years of \$108,500,000. I do not, as I have repeatedly declared, attach anything like the importance to that which hon. gentlemen opposite profess to do, but they stand convicted on their own statement, out of their own mouths, of being wholly and entirely unable to redress that very thing which they have repeatedly declared it was the express aim of their policy to redress. Neither is it necessary for me, at present, to do more than allude briefly to the huge mass of indebtedness which has been accumulating within the last half dozen years. It is well known to all the members of this House that we have added about one hundred millions to our debt within the last few years, and have, besides, incurred a vast number of undefined liabilities, which are all the more mischievous, because they afford the precedents for every kind and description of claim that can be preferred against a Government, while at the same time it is perfectly well known that the population of our more important Provinces has become all but perfectly stationary, that we are not only unable to retain here the immigrants whom we bring to the country, but that we are unable to keep within our bounds even the natural growth of our population, and I am afraid that, if the census which has just been taken of the North-West Territories be truly and fairly taken, it will show a very unfavorable condition of things in that great country. We find, in addition to that, that under the hon. gentleman's Administration, so enormously have the fixed charges on the revenue increased that, at the present moment, those fixed charges are within a mere fraction of 70 per cent. of the whole revenue this country receives. Unfortunately, when we recollect that in addition to charges for interest, subsidies, and expenses of Customs and Excise, we must regard to a great extent the Indian expenditure as a fixed thing, over which we have very little control, the hon. gentleman will find that a much larger proportion of our total expenditure must be placed under the head of fixed charges, than I believe can be found in that shape in any known country—at any rate in any known civilised country to-day. Let us put this briefly. The hon. gentlemen have had their six or seven years of office; in that interval they have contrived to double, to more than double in its actual incidence on the population, the taxation of this country. They have not quite but very nearly doubled our total debt, while our population remains stationary. We find that our trade, and particularly our export trade, has gone on decreasing, at any rate within the last two or three years. We find that the fixed charges on the revenue amount to very nearly two-thirds of the whole, and that our expenditure has been increased by some \$13,000,000 a year; and more than that, we are met by a deficit of five millions in seven months, which will be in all probability increased to eight millions before the year closes; and yet they tell us in that Speech that the country is to be congratulated on its financial condition and its general progress and prosperity. I say that these things speak of tension, that they speak of stagnation, that they show a thoroughly unwholesome state of things to exist, that they mean great loss to employers of labor, and, what is still worse, great privation to many of the unfortunate employed. Now, Sir, politically the state of things is worse still. Were we alone on this continent, had we this continent practically to ourselves as the people of the United States had it practically in the early period of their existence, or had we the whole continent left to ourselves as the people of Australia have, the mistakes of the Government would be of much less consequence and we might expect to be able to repair them at our leisure; but everyone who hears me knows that our position is very different, that we are face to face with fierce competition, that we have a great and wealthy neighbor, which is