

supposed to represent some actual value—that at least we had a canal or a railway or something of that kind to show for it. Where have these \$3,500,000 gone? Sir, they have all

Been blown into gunpowder smoke,

rendered necessary by the extreme mismanagement of hon. gentlemen opposite in dealing with the affairs of the North-West; and it is utterly improper and absurd to put such an item, as the cost of suppressing the rebellion, into the capital account of the Dominion of Canada. So, Sir, instead of admitting, as the hon. gentleman would desire us, that he is justified in saying that he will close this year's account with a deficit of \$1,400,000 we find that we shall close the year 1886 with a true, genuine deficit of \$4,900,000, if not more, according to the statement of the hon. Minister himself. He would not, indeed, tell us what he expected the Franchise Bill would cost. nor did I observe that he told us at all what would be the expense inflicted on this Dominion as the fruit of that great constitutional measure known—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon for naming him—as the McCarthy Act, as to which I fear, unless the information which has reached me is entirely erroneous, a sum of \$200,000 or thereabouts will represent what the country will have to pay for the constitutional opinion of the First Minister endorsed by that of the hon. member for Simcoe. * * *

The Gross amount of Canadian indebtedness

reaches \$281,000,000, that there was in addition many million dollars of liabilities under the guise of railway subsidies and other claims incurred but not accrued, I think the House will see that there is a great deal in our present condition which calls for our most serious consideration. * * * I desire to call attention to the enormous proportion which the fixed charges that we cannot possibly avoid now bear to the total income of Canada.

We find, that for interest and subsidies alone, we are called upon to pay \$15,400,000 a year; we find that the Custom and Excise charges amount to \$1,125,000; Indian grants reach no less a sum than \$1,100,000. The Minister did not deny that the expenditure on post office account now involved an annual deficit of \$1,000,000. * * * Out of an estimated revenue of some \$27,200,000, probably \$19,000,000 will have to be expended on charges like these before we will receive any money for the ordinary expenses of this country. And those honorable gentlemen who recollect the boastful promises with which this National Policy was ushered in, those who recollect the still more absurd predictions which were indulged in as to what it would accomplish, will know as well as I do how little dependence is to be placed on any of the calculations which hon. gentlemen submit to the House on these occasions. Whether we remember the declaration that we might expect, before the next four or five years, the sum of \$58,000,000 from the sales of lands in the North-West, or whether we recollect the

Declaration with which every hustings re-echoed

in 1882, that when the people of Canada once confirmed the National Policy, hundreds of millions of foreign capital would rush in for the erection of manufactories throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion; whether we recollect the statement given on the highest authority that the Crooks Act was not worth the paper it was written on; whether we remember the declaration of the Minister of Public Works, that he and his colleagues had traversed the North-West from end to end six months before the rebellion, without being able to discover one single person with a grievance; or whether we remember the statement of the Minister of Finance that ten years of assured and certain prosperity awaited this happy people—whether we take their declarations, in one shape or the other, I think we will say there is some ground

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