

England to follow her example would be this Dominion of Canada. Well, Sir, the eldest daughter of England has not pronounced for free trade, has not got free trade, but rejoices under the iniquity, as my hon. friend would call it, of a 40 per cent tariff on dutiable goods. And, Sir, I am of the opinion that he is just as much mistaken in thinking that the second daughter of Great Britain, Canada, to wit, will not follow in the line of the United States, upon more moderate grounds, and consider it to her advantage that as long as the United States keeps up a high protective tariff against Canada, Canada in self-defence to her manufactures, her industry, her development and her future, must keep up a moderate and reasonable protection against imported goods.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend made a legitimate criticism of a statement of mine with reference to the finances, as to the expenditure of the current year compared with the falling off of revenue and the consequent deficit which he anticipates, and rightly anticipates. But, just at this point, I would like to disclaim the statement of my hon. friend that the deficit would be, in round figures, about six million dollars. I think my hon. friend has had bad advisers in that respect. He has buoyed himself upon the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), who in this respect, as in some others, is not the best guide in matters party and political which are meant for campaign work against his opponents. It is true that a deficit to a Finance Minister and to a Government is never a welcome thing. Probably there will result from this decline in the occurrence of the year to myself and the Liberal-Conservative party, that we shall hereafter have a little more sympathy and fellow feeling with hon. gentlemen opposite, and having had the casual, and, I hope, but temporary acquaintance with one of those ill-natured and ill-visaged deficits, we shall be better able to appreciate the misery of hon. gentlemen opposite, who seem to have made constant companions of them.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). No.

Mr. FOSTER. There is, however, a word more to be said. A greater authority than myself has stated that execution often lags on promise; and perhaps the promise that I made, the statement that might be construed into a promise or pledge to the House and the country, was made without sufficiently weighing the difficult circumstances in the case. One thing is certain, that after moneys have been voted and appropriations have been made, it is much more difficult to

economize then, than to begin to economize at the start, when the Estimates are being passed and appropriations are being made. It is also a fact that these obligations in expenditure accumulate, that one year never sees the completion of the works begun in that year, and that any one year that may be taken shows obligations in the shape of contracts which have been begun and must be finished, in the shape of preparations which have been commenced and which must be carried out, if loss is not to accrue. So the Government found these accumulations of contracts or obligations, and it becomes very difficult indeed to forego their completion. There were also some extraordinary expenditures which occurred in the past year and added to that difficulty. More than that: the extraordinary falling off in the revenue was of such a nature that it was quite impossible for the Government to have made the expenditure tally with the income, which went so rapidly downward during the last six months of the fiscal year. There is, however, a difference that I should like the House to note in the position at present and that of the regime from 1874 to 1878. It is a fact that the deficits which took place from 1874 to 1878 were deficits accompanied by the laying on of taxation upon the people and were not in any sense deficits which were contributed to by taking off taxation that had formerly been placed upon the people. But with respect to the events of the last three years, and with respect to the deficit of last year, and the deficit of the present year, this must be understood, that that deficit would not have occurred, even in part, if the same rate of taxation which existed in 1890 had been kept on through 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894. Sir, if the sugar taxation alone had been kept at its old figures for these years, we would not only have had the deficit, but we should have had a clear record as between expenditure and income, and have paid off from six to eight millions of the public debt. So, if a deficit has occurred last year and this year, out of the people's pockets it has not come, but along with the people's savings. It has come with the people's savings in two ways: savings from taxations which was removed, the raw sugar taxation which was a direct tax, and savings from decreased purchases owing to economy practised, which always occurs in times of trade difficulty and depression. That marks a distinct difference between the deficits which have occurred in the past year, and will occur in the present year, and those which marked the regime of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Hear, hear. Was there no shrinkage then?

Mr. FOSTER. Certainly. Was there any taxation laid on then? The hon. gentleman should say, "Hear, hear," again. What I stated is perfectly true, that the deficit is