

Government may be in power, the people will demand at its hands a thrifty and economical administration of public affairs. I claim that we who now occupy these benches have shown a desire to follow that course. (Hear, hear.) I am not, however, insensible to the necessity of developing the wealth of the country. If we have resources we must be prepared to take such measures as will ensure their reasonable and progressive development. We must not stand listlessly by and allow treasures to remain buried in the bowels of the earth; if we have agricultural and mineral wealth we must stimulate its development; and we must not neglect the means necessary to bring our products of all kinds to a profitable market. What this country wants is care and judgment in the development of its resources. While we ought not to be backward in those things which are for its advancement, we ought still to pause and make all our calculations with prudence, taking care not to burthen the revenue for objects which are not likely to yield an adequate return. (Hear.) Now, Sir, I am sure the House will be glad to learn that I have nearly come to the end of my remarks; but there is one other matter which I must refer to before closing. I have often heard it stated that this country is groaning under a heavy load of debt and taxation; that it is not an inviting home for a poor man to come to; that our condition as compared with that of other and adjoining countries is that we have heavy burthens to bear without corresponding means of revenue. But let us compare our condition not with that of some of the countries of the Old World, but with the New Colonies which have been but a brief space in existence, and see what is the amount of debt those Colonies have to bear per head of the population, as well as the annual charge, as compared with Canada. Take the Australian Colonies, and see what their condition is as compared with ours :

	Per head.
In New Zealand the interest on the public debt amounts to about.....	\$6 02
In Queensland it is.....	4 97
In New South Wales.....	3 21
In Victoria	2 88
In South Australia.....	2 16
In Tasmania.....	1 51
While in Canada it is only.....	1 12½

per cent. (Hear, hear.) It is to be remembered also that for the debt which we have incurred we have a great deal to show. We have perhaps the best canal system in the world. We have our railways, and important public works for every dollar of the debt which we have incurred. Some of these works may not, perhaps, yield us a direct return for the outlay, but they do indirectly, and the people receive collateral advantages in return for a very large proportion of the debt which they have incurred. I have often heard comparisons instituted in the press and elsewhere between our own condition and that of the State of New York, between our own rate of progress and theirs. Let me for one moment call attention to the burthens which the people there have to bear, as compared with our

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