

state safely into harbour—again you maligned the man and vilified his good work ! And now, when the storm has well-nigh passed, when the clouds begin to break, when the commercial barometer begins to rise, when brighter and better days are near at hand—you !—you who caused all the trouble—glory that the revenue is reduced, glory that there is a deficit, and call on my hon. friend to rise on the instant and tell you, forsooth, how the Government mean to equalize the balance-sheet ! With commercial and industrial depression all over the world ; financial embarrassment everywhere ; immense shrinkage in the value of all property, real and personal ; two bad crops within the three years ; stern economy forced on the masses of every land ; an open winter to add to the embarrassment ; you, in the face of all, pretend astonishment that there is a deficit ! You cannot cloak your smothered delight that there is a deficit ! Well, what, after all, does this fearful thing amount to ? Why, in the three years the present Ministry have been in power the total expenditure amounted to—

	\$71,720,744
And the revenues to.....	69,295,576
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Total deficit in three years.....	\$ 2,425,168

But let it not be forgotten that in these same years there was paid from the revenues of the country into the Sinking Fund for the extinction of the National Debt, no less a sum than \$2,207,099—or within two hundred thousand dollars of the entire deficit. The deficit, in fact, was caused by reduction of the Public Debt. Is that a balance-sheet in such times as the present to alarm any one ? Far from it. One step up the ladder of returning prosperity would put a totally new aspect on the picture—and good cause have the people of Canada to rejoice that the men they have now presiding over their affairs, come storm or come calm, will be found equal to the occasion.