

money is not an object at this moment. The treasury is affluent and I think the energies of the Canadian people in the eastern provinces and in the west are adequate to provide all that is necessary to cope with this new problem, and it is with this object that I have for the last time to appeal to all who claim to be patriotic to stand by the policy which we have put before the House.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, the right hon. leader of the government (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier), in his closing remarks, said that a new star has arisen but he did not say whether it was in the east or in the west. I presume that he meant that it indicates the approach of the wise men. If that which we have before us is an indication of their wisdom I may be excused if I would say that I have great doubts as to whether that star has arisen yet or not. That star indicated an overflowing treasury, an abundance of wealth and a desire on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite to spend it and spend it freely. I leave it to the people of Canada to judge whether or not it is another evidence of the wisdom of the government. The Prime Minister described the speech of the leader of the opposition, as being not so much an attack upon the policy of the government, as a defence of his own policy. Well, in so far as it was a defence of his own policy, it was an answer by the leader of the opposition to allegations made against it which were devoid of fact and logic. Gentlemen opposite indulged in all kinds of wild statements about the proposition laid down by the hon. leader of the opposition, and it was the duty of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) to refute these statements. But, it is not the policy propounded by the leader of the opposition that is on trial before the people of Canada to-day. It is the policy propounded by the government that the people of Canada have to consider, and notwithstanding that, it may truly be said that the Prime Minister applied himself to-day, not to defending his policy, but in trying to detract from the acceptance which the policy of the leader of the opposition has found from the people of Canada. The policy proposed by the leader of the government commits the country to the expenditure of millions of dollars, to an increase in the public debt, and to heavy burdens which must be borne by the people for many years in the future. And, Sir, the country will judge the government by the policy which they have laid down, and not by the policy of the leader of the opposition. The right hon. gentleman taunted us, that we have never dared to crystallize our opinion, by moving an amendment. Why, Mr. Speaker, there is an amendment in your hands now, and there was an amendment moved not so long ago in this House, setting forth the opposition's views on this question, and how in the face of that, the Prime Minister could make such

a statement, is something that I cannot understand. One of our amendments has already been dealt with, and another very cogent one is before the House now, and it must be voted upon by the ministers and their supporters whether they like the ordeal or not. The right hon. gentleman told us, that the policy of the opposition was many-sided. Well, we are not ashamed to say that it has many-sided virtues, and we are quite confident that its many-sided virtues will receive the commendation of the people of Canada. The trouble with the policy of the government is, that it has only one side, and the only side it has is that it burdens the country with an enormous expenditure. Let us inquire into a few of the many-sided advantages which the proposition of the leader of the opposition will confer upon the people of the country. It develops the transportation routes now in existence; it increases the transportation facilities which we have been spending money to perfect for years past; it does not side-track the wealthy towns and cities of Ontario and Quebec as does the government scheme; it assists in building them up and bringing trade through them; it confers benefits on the people of Ontario, of Quebec and the maritime provinces; it builds up the great ports of the Georgian bay, and of Lake Huron and of Lake Superior; affords accommodation to the people of Manitoba and the North-west right through to the Pacific ocean. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the policy of the leader of the opposition is many-sided, and every side of it has a virtue in it, and every virtue it possesses will commend it to the intelligent judgment of the people of Canada. I regret that I cannot say the same for the policy of the government. We are told that no madder scheme could be conceived, than that the government should operate the Canada Atlantic Railway. We were asked, where would that line get its freight if it did not depend on the United States for it. But, is that an unmixed evil? If we have the United States supplying that line with freight would that fact alone not aid it to give a better service for the transportation of home freight? Would it not add to the earning powers of that line? Would that be any objection to the scheme? Why, Sir, I believe that is an additional recommendation in favour of the proposal that we should take over the Canada Atlantic Railway. And, if the Canada Atlantic Railway is handling the freight of the western states to-day, why should it not handle it if the road passed under the control of the government? I submit these considerations to the right hon. gentleman in the hope that he may revise his opinion in this respect. Then the right hon. gentleman told us, that the essence of the government scheme is another railway between the east and the west. Let me point out to him that we are going to get another railway into the North-west in a very short time, without a