

heard them; for I gave one of them in Belleville, in presence of Mr. Bowell, the Minister of Customs. (Applause.) But they continue their misleading statements. I repeat my challenge once again. I call you to note my statement, and to compare it with the facts as they will be disclosed. (Cheers.) I will give you

#### THE ELEMENTS OF MY ESTIMATE.

On May 1st, 1886, the Government declared the net debt to be \$205,569,263. On the same day they declared the deficit to be \$1,542,674. But on 30th June the deficit had increased by no less than \$4,322,880, involving that much addition to the net debt. Then we added \$10,189,000 to the net debt by relieving the Canadian Pacific Railway Company from so much of their secured indebtedness. These additions would make the net debt as of 1st July \$220,081,143. But there remain to be dealt with two conjectural items—conjectural, at least, for me, though these gentlemen have the figures. These items are, first, the increase during the last two months of the sinking fund, which tends, while it swells the deficit, to reduce the net debt; and, secondly, the capital expenditure for the last two months, which tends to increase the debt. I conjecture that the balance to be added to the net debt on account of these two items may be \$400,000 or \$500,000; and, if so, the net debt would be about \$220,500,000, and the addition for the year would be about \$24,000,000. Keep these figures in your minds, and compare them with the accounts. (Cheers.) Mr. Foster alleges that I made a very inaccurate statement on the subject of the burden of the debt on the heads of families. My statement at Galt was this:—

You must remember, in dealing with the net debt, that a large portion of our assets is dubious, and that were we to take a proper and strict account, on the basis of the amount we may expect to realize from the assets, the actual balance of debt would be much larger than it appears.

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You must remember also, in considering the future of the debt, that we have contracted large railway and other engagement, rapidly maturing, which must necessarily increase its volume within a brief period.

I then estimated, apart from these considerations, the net debt at \$220,000,000. I went on to say:—

As to its real burden, within a very brief space, if you allow for the depreciation of assets and for the peremptory engagements I have mentioned, the real debt means, or will shortly mean, \$300 for every head of a family.

Therefore I was not then dealing with \$196,000,000, or even \$220,000,000. I was dealing with the latter sum