

you would find that at the present moment we are paying our way pretty well. But the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) in the manner in which he deals with the North West, is like an exacting father who has a prosperous and successful son, and who yet is never content with the way things go on. Now, Sir, the total postal revenue in the North-West and Manitoba for these ten years I have referred to was \$1,212,000. and the total postal expenditure was \$2,241,202; leaving a loss in that respect of \$828,980. Nobody supposes that that is a serious matter in dealing with the postal service, for I believe there are parts of Canada long settled where the postal service does not pay; and we must remember that the postal service in any part of Canada cannot be properly considered a local service. (Hear, hear.) In order to have the postal service complete you must reach every civilized part of the country, or otherwise your postal service in the more thickly settled part of the country would not be effective. Therefore you can never take a profit and loss estimate of this service in any given part of the country. That is a point which I particularly wish to impress upon the attention of the House. I do not think that I have had an opportunity before of showing how absurd were the figures of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), but the least analysis of the situation shows that his figures and his calculations are utterly absurd. Mr. Speaker, I do hope that when gentlemen come to speak of that great country in the North-West, which is bound up with the future of Canada more than any other part of the whole Dominion, because it has put back-bone into this Dominion; I do hope that they will escape their sense of despair, that they will forget their feeling of gloom, and that they will separate themselves from these pessimistic views they have been accustomed to; and that they will allow the light of hope and of confidence to break in upon them. It is not in the partizan manner in which this discussion has been conducted that we should talk at this hour, when we stand on a height of prosperity that thirty

years ago could never have been anticipated, a height of prosperity from which we can see further heights, peak rising beyond peak, on which the light of suns that we may not enjoy are already beaming. I say, Sir, that the proper way would be to approach the great problems that are before us as brethren engaged in the great task of building up this young nation. That is the proper feeling to have. We should remember that after all we tread a land that has been trodden from the very first by heroes. This is a young country, but it has a historic past. The men who first explored it were as truly heroes as any men who ever lived in any country, and from Jacques Cartier down, there has been no age in which we have not had men worthy of historical position. When you come to the time when there was a contest as to what race would predominate heroes fought and fell on each side. When you come to the war of 1812 you have for so small a war a larger number of distinguished figures than has ever graced the history of a similar epoch; and when you come to our last little struggle on the banks of the Saskatchewan it was not merely fight, but it was that in the depths of winter our young men, youths unused to arms, marched there in the face of great difficulties, over hundreds of miles of ice and snow, because they wanted to build up a nation. Would to Heaven that we might discuss the issues in this House in the same spirit, as I hope any of us would go, taking our lives in our hands, into the battle for the country in which we live. I remember, Mr. Speaker, in 1870, when I went to Paris to go to the front with McMahan. Just before the last regiments left for the front there was exhibited in one of the windows a splendid painting representing on the right of the canvas the armies of the Empire crossing the Rhine at Ehrenbreitstein, and on the left of the canvas you saw rising before them the ghosts of the triumphant republicans of the Napoleonic era, beckoning their descendants to cross that river, and to advance to battle-fields, and to win victories where they had won them. But Sir, that army did not win victories, and