

before last of about two and a quarter millions. Last year the deficit was about \$5,900,000, or, in the two years, \$8,100,000. Now, Mr. White has complained that when I spoke of these deficits I forgot to tell the people that they were wholly due to the extraordinary expenditure caused by the rebellion. I did not forget; I abstained on purpose, and for a reason which may appear to Mr. White trifling and inadequate. I did not say so, only because it was not true. (Laughter.) That is all the poor excuse I have to offer. (Renewed laughter.) There was, as I told the people, a war expenditure in the two years of \$5,100,000. This leaves a deficit of \$3,000,000 beyond the war debt. (Cheers.) But I must add that I regard the war debt as the most scandalous and blamable of all. (Cheers.) Again, as to the deficit of last year, Mr. Thompson, who talks with great apparent precision, said the other day that for the first four months of the current year there was already a surplus in the treasury which more than half overtook the deficit of last year; and there was every reason to believe the Government would have entirely paid off the deficit of last year, and have a moderate surplus besides, instead of there being a deficit. Now, this statement of Mr. Thompson's was disingenuous and misleading. The bulk of the expenditures were made in the fifth month, November, and at the close of that month the apparent surplus was under \$1,100,000—(cheers)—only one-third of his figure for the fourth month. Now I mark the estimate of the Minister that during this year the deficit of last year, say \$5,900,000, is to be paid off, and a moderate further surplus realized. This means a surplus for this year of at least seven millions.

#### I STIGMATIZE THAT STATEMENT

as utterly destructive of any claim to attention of future estimates of the Minister. I shall be well pleased if we close the year with a surplus of one million, instead of seven millions. It is, of course, impossible to make very close calculations; but this of the Minister's is absurd and ridiculous. No one who has the slightest knowledge of our affairs, or has paid the slightest attention to the course of revenue and expenditure, or the current of trade, will be found to endorse his view. I advise you to reject it wholly; and I ask you to remember what I have said next summer and to compare the results with our respective forecasts. Now, as to the amount of our net debt, I have estimated it at about 220 millions, and have repeatedly challenged the statements of the Ministers, which are calculated to lead the people to believe that our net debt is only \$196,000,000. I have challenged them to open the public ledger, and declare the debt as of 1st July last, and as of later dates. They have seen my challenges—nay, they have