

needed, because he did not want to borrow in 1875. In 1875 he borrowed again and told us that he had gone into the market when it was low before European complications might arise, and in 1876 he borrowed two and a half millions more, or in other words he has borrowed over nine millions of pounds, which shows he has good facilities for borrowing, but the purposes for which he uses the money he does not tell us. Perhaps he has been borrowing to lend it.

Hon. Mr. MILLAR—To the banks.

Hon. Mr. READ—Yes, I suppose so. Two years ago he told us he had twelve millions in the banks, and last year he had eleven millions. We know that he has been lending to the banks and for all we know he is doing so still. When the present Government came into power the construction of the Pacific Railway was being prosecuted, the Welland and Lachine Canals were fairly commenced, and all these works were progressing favorably, and it seems to me that the Finance Minister should have known in 1874 that he would not have to borrow in 1875, and then again in 1876. I hope the Government will do all their power to press on the public works to completion, especially the canals, so that they can give employment to labor when it is required. After all that has been said in and out of Parliament I did expect to see something in the speech with reference to the reconstruction of the Senate. When we find a resolution like the following moved in Parliament by Mr. Mills, and seconded by Mr. Blake, on the 13th of April, 1874—"Resolved that this House do immediately resolve itself into a committee to consider the following resolution: "that the present mode of constituting the Senate is inconsistent with the federal principle in our system of Government, makes the Senate alike independent of the people and the Crown, and is in other national respects defective, and that our constitution ought to be amended so as to confer upon each province the power of appointing its own Senators, and to define the mode of their appointment." We should reasonably expect that those gentlemen would not enter the Cabinet without their being in accord with the Government. When those gentlemen consider the Senate to be defective, it is manifestly their duty to reconstruct it. Yet we see no reference to it in the Speech, so that they must have abnegated the principles which they held before entering the Government. Even the honorable Premier thought a change in the Senate was necessary, and Mr. Huntingdon complained that Senators were appointed as a reward for political services. An-

other member of the Government termed the Senate an asylum for political prostitutes. I hope none of the appointments of the present Government are of that character. I feel sure they are not political prostitutes, and that this is not a Magdalen Asylum for them. As far as I can see the Government have abnegated every principle they advocated when out of power, since they came into office. Either they were sincere or they were not sincere in their professions, but if they were sincere they would have carried their professions into practice. They have always advocated when in Opposition that members of the Government of the day should not be appointed to lucrative offices, but I almost expected to have found a paragraph in the Speech regretting that His Excellency had not been able to find places of honour and emolument for the balance of the Ministers already not appointed. In the short space of time they have been in power they have found places for three Lieutenant-Governors, two Judges and one Custom House officer. I venture to say that in the whole history of this country there could not be found such another example, and it is easy to turn up their own resolutions condemnatory of such practices. One of their first acts after coming into power was to disturb the basis of representation by introducing a bill for the redistribution of South Huron. If that bill had not been defeated by this House it is hard to say how every constituency in the country would have been gerrymandered. They had also, after contending for years for the extension of the franchise, brought in a bill to disfranchise one-third of Prince Edward Island after that province came into the Union. The wisdom of this House threw out the Bill, and it has not been introduced again because it could not be defended. I do not find anything in the Speech respecting the prevailing commercial depression. I am one of those who believe that the Government of the day can do a great deal to relieve the trade and commerce of the country to a great extent, and I believe it is the duty of the Government and Parliament to do all in their power to conduce to the profitable employment of the people by wise legislation. There may be a rearrangement of the tariff, and, should it be the case, I hope our shipping interests will receive that attention that they deserve, so that they may not be fettered as they were attempted to be fettered by the Act of 1874. Our ships that have to compete in all parts of the world, had the Government had their way, would have been like a man compelled to swim with a stone on his head,