

own hands. Our resources are increasing rapidly, and as our population increases, so will our revenue; and under all our prospects we need be under no uneasiness. I am perfectly satisfied, if we take the Canal into our own hands and pay the stockholders interest for a certain number of years, the country will be benefitted.

Mr. NORRIS.—Since I have had the honour of a seat upon the floor of this House, no question has been presented for my consideration upon which I have been called upon to record my vote, surrounded with difficulties and embarrassments, so perplexing to me as the one now before us. Indeed, Sir, it requires no small degree of moral courage to attempt the task of assigning my reasons for the vote I am about to give, for I find hon. gentlemen who are in favour of the question, denounced as persons perfectly reckless of the interests of the province, determined to squander away in the most lavish and shameful manner all the revenues and resources of the country upon a work that will never make a return, but will always prevent our undertaking every other improvement. On the other hand, those who feel themselves bound to oppose the measure, are denounced in terms of equal violence as enemies to all improvements, and as enemies to the best interests of the province, and I assure you it is matter of no small regret that I find myself compelled to differ in the views which I have taken from my hon. and learned friend from Lennox and Addington, whose opinions upon all questions of general policy, I have always listened to with great attention and respect; but, Sir, I trust hon. and learned gentleman will do me the justice to believe that I am actuated by no other motives than a conscientious sense of duty. In the course of this debate, it has been said that the Company had deceived the Legislature, that an agent of the Company had obtained a resolution granting £25,000 towards the work, for the avowed object of giving confidence to the public, which would enable the stockholders to get the remainder of the stock taken, and if necessary raise a loan, and that we should never be called upon to redeem the pledge thus given. Well, Sir, admitting this to be, have we not, by passing that resolution, by sending the Receiver General into a foreign market with this resolution of the Legislature in his pocket, as an assurance that the province would sustain the work by further grants if required—have we not, I say, become a party to that deception, and thus led persons to embark their capital in the enterprise, relying upon the faith of the Legislature—if it be so, then I say we are bound by every consideration of justice, of honour, and of good faith, cost what it may, to step forward and redeem the pledge thus tacitly given. If we refuse the Company assistance, they are inevitably ruined; and can we look calmly on and witness the ruin of such a gentleman as Mr. Yates, who has done so much for a work of such vast importance to Upper Canada? I think not. I believe there is too much liberality and too much justice in the Legislature of Upper Canada. It must be recollected that we have already advanced them £157,500, which we must lose if we abandon the work—are we prepared to throw that sum away, or shall we go on and complete the work? I believe the work will pay both principal and interest, long before our debentures will become due. Last year with all their difficulties, in the month of July alone, which is the worst month in the navigable season, but which was the only month of uninterrupted business on the Canal, their receipts were £1,017, and from that, what are we to expect when this work shall have been fully completed and in successful operation. That part of the province west of the Canal could well afford to pay the whole expense of construction, if they were never to receive a shilling in return; look at the increase of