

place, that I have not got the information required; and I doubt, indeed, whether it continues in existence at this House. The House is aware that such information was not granted in the case of previous loans.

MR. PLUMB said that after the able remarks of the hon. member for Cumberland, he would not have addressed the House had it not been for the remarks of the Finance Minister. The principal points in the discussion were, the manner in which the loan was floated, and the scale of interest that it had been alleged had been saved. The very action of the Government in requiring that all contracts should be made by tender was an argument that the loan should have been floated by tender. It was the contention of the Opposition that had the loan been made at the proper time and in the open market it would have been more favourable for Canada. The hon. member for Cumberland had already shown that the price of the Australian loan was higher than the ruling quotation for small amounts upon the open market. This great Dominion, he held, ought to have a high character and credit in the markets of the world. That credit might have been injured by the financial statements of the Finance Minister at a time when, if ever, the silver side of the shield should be shown. A great many of the difficulties of Canada in respect to the negotiations of public securities were no doubt owing to the Finance Minister's injudicious statements in his initial Budget Speech, and it was no wonder capitalists should have been alarmed by them. The loan of 1876 was negotiated under peculiarly favourable circumstances, so far as the English market was concerned, for railway securities had grown into disfavour, and a large amount of money was lying idle in the coffers at London. There was a great plethora of money in the financial centres, there was a distrust of foreign loans and securities, a low rate of interest was ruling, and capitalists were anxious to get safe investments. The Finance Minister had said that the peculiar juncture at which this loan was put on the market was the only time at which a loan

could have been effected. There were certainly complications in Europe, but to-day, notwithstanding the rumours that led to the supposition that a war was inevitable, there was no great decline in the public securities. The loan should have been effected by tender and the credit of Canada tested. Had that been done the bonds would have been more scattered among the people, they would be subject to less fluctuations, and there would be less danger of any great fluctuations bringing down the prices. As it was, they had been put into the hands of those who were at once affected by any fluctuation in the market, and that being the case, if a fluctuation occurred, it would be most damaging to the credit of Canada. The Finance Minister had stated that it was impossible for those who took the loan to make anything but a small profit. He (Mr. Plumb) held that they could make a large profit. The loan netted 89, and the price quoted to-day, including accrued interest, was about 92. If any one having sufficient credit had taken a large sum at the price at which the loan was floated, he would have made not only the difference between the price at which he took the loan, and the price which it bears now, but there would have been a profit out of the interest of at least two or two and a half per cent. by holding the bonds for a year or eighteen months. He could have borrowed at the current rate of interest, and could have received four per cent. on his money by taking up portions of the Finance Minister's bonds, which would have left him a margin of two or two and a half per cent. He had not proposed to criticize the loan severely, but considering the statements of the Finance Minister there was no wonder if the credit of the country was low. In connection with the general negotiation of the loan, very misleading statements had been made. It had been stated, among other things, that a very material saving had been effected by the four per cent. loans. It had been calculated that the four per cent. loans were made at par, but it must be remembered that for every \$10,000, \$8,900 were received into the Public Treasury. Secondly, it was to be remembered that any state-