

way to the intolerable folly and wastefulness with which the money of the people has been dissipated. I can only name our Tay Canal, our Curran Bridge, our railway subsidies, our North-west expenditures, our immigration expenditures, our seventeen paid Ministers, our duplicate Speakers, our St. Charles extensions, our Caraqueet railways, our Fredericton bridges, our Behring Sea arbitrations and our Prohibition Commissions;—our Franchise Act, our Civil Government costs us a million and a half; another million and a half we pay for Militia, and get no Militia after all. Sir, these and all the other favourite ways of wasting the money of the people have been pretty fully laid before this House in times past. Take our Intercolonial Railway;—fifty millions of the people's money invested, and not one copper of revenue from it. We call ourselves lucky—most fortunate—if we can make both ends meet, and, notwithstanding our sinking fifty millions, we are not obliged to add more than a few hundred thousand of capital account from year to year. And what shall I say of the new projects in the North-west? Sir, I have here a document made up on very high authority which shows that there are to-day in the country extending from Sudbury to the western limit of the province of Alberta, a population of 261,161 souls. This, of course, includes the greater part of Algoma. In the same territory they have of constructed railway, 4,348 miles, being at the rate of one mile of constructed railway for every 60 souls or every 12 families in these territories. And we are asked for aid for projected lines which would run the total up, according to my calculation, to something close upon one mile of completed road for every ten people now in the territories—including the subsidy likely to be brought down for the Hudson Bay railway. I repeat that I do not, for my part, despair of the position of the country. But, I realize the facts. I realize that very great chances have been thrown away. I realize the long succession of blunders which have characterized the conduct of Government during the past twenty-five years. I can remember that Canada entered into confederation in this position—our debt was one-third per head that of the United States, our taxation was one-third per head of the United States. How stands the account to-day? Our debt per head, or I am greatly mistaken, is at least treble that of the United States. The debt of the United States per head of the people is \$14. Our debt, according to the computation of the hon. gentleman, not taking into account the liabilities which he excludes, would amount to close upon \$300,000,000, which would be about \$60 per head. How has our population increased? Since confederation we have barely added a million and a quarter of people in nearly thirty years. Look at the increase in the United States, in their early days, without

heavy expenditures upon immigration to help them. In 1790 their population was 4,000,000; in 1800 it was 5,300,000; in 1810 it was 7,315,000; and there was an estimated population of 9,000,000 in 1818. When I look back to what might have been done, when I realize that with reasonably wise government it would have been no great feat for Canada to have gained a population of 8,000,000 souls—perhaps 10,000,000—I cannot but feel that the greatest opportunities have been most ruthlessly thrown away. Well, Sir, as I said before, what, under these circumstances, can we advise? Our advice is simple and brief:—Make adequate provision for your deficit; do your duty to the country and let the people know and fully understand what the public liabilities are—liabilities which, according to the figures I have submitted, are not much short of \$300,000,000. Sir, I advise that we learn prudence and economy; that we be content, as the Scriptures have it, with such things as we have; do not stretch our hands for further territory which we cannot properly administer or provide for without doing injustice to our own people. I would advise the hon. gentleman to dispense, for the time being, with his Pacific cables and East Atlantic services, I advise him to make friends, if it can be honourably done, with the people of the United States. And above all and before all, I advise him to strike off, as far as possible, existing trade restrictions. These things done, Sir, I will grant there is a reasonable chance that the country may right itself, that out of all this evil, there may spring some good. Sir, I do not pretend to say, and I do not believe that this country is going to escape entirely scathless from the results of sixteen years of folly, fraud and falsehood. We must suffer for what we have done; we must retrace our steps and must be prepared to submit to some sacrifice in doing it. What these gentlemen have done is to put back the progress of Canada for a whole generation. We cannot, and we do not pretend that we can give back to Canada her lost children, her "lost legions." Nor is it in our power, except in so far as our example can redeem the past, to blot out the marks of shame upon the shield of Canada which these men's conduct have caused. Sir, the hon. gentleman's proposals may stop the deficit. That is well. That ought to be done; that must be done. But we must do more than that. We must lighten the burdens of the people as well as stop the deficit. I do not pretend to say that that will be an easy task. I say that it is a task utterly and hopelessly impossible under the present system. Nevertheless that is the goal that the Reform party must keep in view, that is the goal for which they must strive; that is the goal which I hope and trust they will soon attain. As to the manufacturers, I desire to say most emphatically that we have no ill-will on our side of the House to the manufacturers as a class.