

the trooping ghosts and spectres dogging every man of them close at his heels. These spectres are crying out in ghostly voices: 'Fulfilment, fulfilment, as honest men.' Gentlemen, let me tell you, through you, Mr. Speaker, that you have very few weeks left in which to fulfil those promises and to lay those ghosts. The member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) knows that. There is one following him; he shakes it off on to the First Minister. There is the ghost of unfulfilled pledges in regard to economy and expenditure. In all the four pages of this address there is no hint of economical expenditure. Down at the very end, however, there is an intimation that 'the estimates will be prepared with a due regard to economy and the rapid growth of the Dominion,' rapid growth in the matter of indiscriminate and huge railway subsidies for instance. There is another ghost following the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who, in 1895, took the patron beauty upon his aged knee, who wooed her in soft and mellow terms, and who told her, with all the ardour of an 18-year-old swain, that if she would but prove true to him for life he and she would waddle down the pathway of life in beautiful consonance—upon this point at least, that no railway subsidies should be scattered as a blight among the constituencies. There is the Prime Minister of this Dominion, who, Sir, actually had the hardihood to go out into the intelligent province of Ontario, stand up before an intelligent and well-read people, look them in the face, or over their heads, and declare: We have kept every promise we ever made, with the exception of the promise to abolish the Senate, and that we propose to perform. I do not need to follow that, it would be superfluous to do so. Why, the man himself must know what he is saying when he makes a statement of that kind. The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) tries to parry the blow by saying: We have performed every promise. Read our promises. Where are they? They are in the 1893 convention. That is what we are pledged to, and not to any irresponsible utterances of individuals. The Minister of Customs said that, he knows he said it, said it in Winnipeg. Who are those irresponsible persons? One sits a little behind him, who stood up in the plenitude of economical principles and declared in Ontario, before the election: If we do not reduce the expenditure of this country by three millions as soon as we get into power, turn us out. Then there is a still more irresponsible person, the Prime Minister, who stood up before the face of a Toronto audience, in face of the electors of this whole country, and declared to them that though they might not bring the expenditure back to the days of Alexander Mackenzie, they would reduce it one, two,

Mr. FOSTER.

three, and, as the Minister of Justice (Mr. Mills) said, they would reduce it by four million dollars. And yet that same gentleman stood up and declared in the face of an intelligent people that he had performed every pledge that he had ever made. Do I need to go any further, Mr. Speaker? I know, Sir, that this is a painful subject for you, and I will spare you, because, being now in that position, where you look with fair and open eyes on both sides of the House, or, perhaps, more properly, look on neither side, but straight down on the pathway before you, you must feel your heart-strings wrung by the exhibition of your former friends and associates in this matter of unfulfilled promises and unredeemed performances. But the unfulfilled pledges are the least reprehensible part of their conduct. The awful thing about it is that, not only did they fail to fulfil their pledges, but they actually turn around and declare that they have fulfilled them. My right hon. friend said last night that there was no greater calamity than war. Yes, there is. A greater calamity than war is to sit down in cowardly submission to wrong and insult. There is a greater calamity than unfulfilled promises. What is it? It is to brazen it out before honest men, and in the face of day, to say that you have fulfilled them, when you know that you have not. The first is perfidy, the second, Sir, is turpitude added to perfidy.

Something is said about transportation, and one passage of this address congratulates the country—on what? And here I am amazed again at its modesty. It congratulates the country on the vigorous policy of the government with reference to finishing the canal system of this country. Where was the Premier when that modest paragraph was indicted? For I find that this Premier of Canada stood on a platform at Bowmanville, on October 16th last, before a magnificent, but, as I am informed, very cool and critical audience, and made his apology for the sins of his cabinet. In that capacity and on that platform he said:

To Alexander Mackenzie is due the policy we are now forwarding.

That is the canal policy.

He commenced the deepening of the Welland Canal, he deepened it to the depth of fourteen feet.

Mr. GIBSON. That is right.

Mr. FOSTER (reading).

And for eighteen years afterwards the work went on at a snail's pace. The Conservatives did practically nothing with this work,—but when we came into office we undertook, and successfully too, to complete it in three years.

That was the Prime Minister of Canada, let loose upon an audience in the province of Ontario. Well, Sir, what happened; what are the facts of the case? The