

that he is an adroit manager—his management being based on the theory of doing to-day what must be done to-day, and of leaving till to-morrow whatever can be deferred. I doubt, however, after all, whether, when the hon. gentleman comes to review his career, he will be satisfied that that sort of policy brings with it the highest rewards of public life.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—I shall be quite satisfied to allow the hon. member for Chateaugay to be my biographer. (Laughter.)

HON. MR. HOLTON—But while that has been his theory and his practice, and a certain degree of success has attended it, I would like to ask the Hon. President of the Council whether he has heretofore acted upon that theory, and whether he can quite afford to act upon it now? Most of us remember—those of us who have been for a few years in public life in this country, must remember a very striking speech delivered by the hon. member for South Oxford (Honorable Mr. BROWN), in Toronto, in the session of 1856 or 1857—he has delivered many striking speeches in his time, but this was one of the most striking—in which he described the path of the Hon. Attorney General West as being studded all along by the grave-stones of his slaughtered colleagues. (Hear, hear.) Well, there are not wanting those who think they deservy in the not very remote distance, a yawning grave waiting for the noblest victim of them all. (Laughter.) And I very much fear, that unless the hon. gentleman has the courage to assert his own original strength—and he has great strength—and to discard the blandishments and the sweets of office, and to plant himself where he stood formerly, in the affections and confidence of the people of this country, as the foremost defender of the rights of the people, as the foremost champion of the privileges of a free Parliament—unless he hastens to do that, I very much fear that he too may fall a victim—as I have said, the noblest victim of them all—to the arts, if not the arms, of the fell destroyer. (Laughter.) I desire, as I am on my feet—and am not at all certain that I shall, under the new phase of things, trouble the House with any lengthened observations—I desire to say a few words on the merits of this question of defence. Of course I hold, as I presume every man in this country holds, that the people that will not defend themselves are unworthy of free institutions. I hold

that we must defend ourselves against all aggressors, in the best way we can. I think the policy we have been pursuing for some years past, of enrolling our people and training them to the use of arms and in military exercise, and in the instructing of officers who might lead them, should necessity require—I think all that is sound policy. I would even go somewhat further in that direction than we have gone heretofore. But if honorable gentlemen propose that we should establish a standing army—that we should equip a navy—that we should go into a costly system of permanent fortifications, they are proposing what is beyond the strength of the country—they are proposing what will speedily bring financial ruin on the country—and by bringing financial ruin on the country, and by creating thereby dissatisfaction among the people, they will prepare the way to that very event which they profess so strongly to deprecate. I believe, if it has not that effect, it will certainly result in depopulating our country. Already the work of depopulation is going on.

HON. MR. BROWN—Oh! oh!

HON. MR. HOLTON—Throughout the whole of the western counties of Canada, at the present moment, there is a greater amount of financial distress and of *malaise* than I have known for twenty-five years. I challenge the honorable gentlemen around me to contradict the statement. And I say we are not in a position to stand very great additional burdens on our resources. (Hear, hear.) Then what is the condition of our finances? The honorable gentleman who presides over our finances did not venture the other day to dispute the statement I made, that every branch of the revenue was falling off, and that we had an inevitable deficit for this current year staring us in the face. Is it not so?

HON. MR. GALT—The hon. gentleman may repeat his own statement, but he must not put it in my mouth.

HON. MR. HOLTON—The hon. gentleman did not venture to deny it, and I thought the gravity of the statement was such that he would have denied it, if he could.

HON. MR. GALT—Make your statement on your own responsibility, not mine.

HON. MR. HOLTON—Then, I say, on my own responsibility, that every branch of the revenue has been falling off since the