

charge of the affairs of the Province of Ontario for four years for their weakness has not been in manner but in matter—their eliminating the small things, the financial criticism that has been made amounts to this and nothing more: there has been an increase in the expenditures of the Province of Ontario under the present Government. We had that in different forms from each gentleman who spoke from the opposite side; they have elaborated that one idea and put it in as good form and in as plausible shape as possible from an Opposition standpoint. But hon. gentlemen must see that they must go very much further than that before their criticisms can be considered as serious or as at all effective. Criticism should be specific.

Must be Explicit

Last year, I endeavored to point out in the few remarks that I made during the Budget Debate that before the hon. gentlemen can make any point in this House or in the Country they must go a great deal further than merely to say: "There is an increased expenditure; therefore condemn the Government." I said then and I repeat now that criticism of the total expenditure of the Government in order to be effective must be specific. You must say what you object to. I thought I made that clear but it does not appear to have made any very great change in the character of the criticisms offered by hon. gentlemen opposite. A year ago, I said to my hon. friend from Kingston who is the recognized financial critic of the Opposition in this House, and he did not forget it, because, during his remarks he referred to it—I said, "You should be specific." And the hon. gentleman in opening his remarks upon this year's budget, said, that he objected to the bouquets that had been thrown to him across the floor of the House upon his speech of last year on the ground that it was such an eminently fair one in that he had made no objection and practically had no criticism to offer to any single item of Government expenditure. Therefore, he said "I object to that and this year I will be specific." And the hon. gentleman started out to be specific, and I sat up and took paper and pencil to take down the specific objections that the hon. gentleman had to offer to the financial expenditures of this Government. Now, the hon. gentleman was specific in some particulars. I have his remarks before me. The hon. gentleman, after referring to the fact that bouquets had been thrown to him which he did not want to accept because of his address the previous year, said "I will be specific this year." Specific in what respect? The meaning is, of course, as the hon. gentleman knows very well but I must repeat it again to him—specific in pointing out items of expenditure in the Province of Ontario that can be objected to