

\$65,000 a year, were some \$13,000 a year, besides their board—altogether say about \$20,000 a year, or 30 per cent. of the whole outlay, and I may say here that the paymaster's office seems to have been at first wholly a sinecure, as must have been many of the others. It was a case where Jack did nothing and Tom helped Jack. I do not think they went so far as to employ a chaplain, but, I presume, the Superintendent might have read prayers.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: The Superintendent contented himself with preying upon the Government.

MR. PLUMB: I have glanced at some of the accounts, and I find that \$102.88 was paid for telegraphing from the month of December, 1877, to the month of March, 1878, and I commend the investigation of the items of this little bill to the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) who has shown great acuteness in that direction. There were also in the employ of this model establishment fifty-five Indians, besides a great number of labourers and artisans of all kinds. The supplies for feeding this army, who were boarded at the Government boarding-house, were bought, not in Canada, but mainly from a shopkeeper living in Grand Rapids. Large sums were paid the Superintendent for travelling expenses; \$372.50 was paid him for board allowances, whatever that may mean. The disbursement on this flagrant folly, up to the last dates in the Public Accounts, were \$253,622.29. We have ascertained that the cost of the construction of the two ends of the road, with which it was to have been connected, will be about \$10,000,000. At 5 per cent., that would involve an annual charge upon the country of \$511,000 for interest alone. Assuming that they could utilise this Fort Frances detour at all—which is denied by Mr. Fleming—at its utmost capacity it would have been so entirely unprofitable that if the whole amount of wheat that passed over it had paid \$1 per bushel, it would have been cheaper for the Government to have bought the wheat and have burned it up and allowed the road to be idle, than to have been at the expense of working the route for the purpose of transporting it. This is the great work of which we

heard so much boasting in days gone by, before, as the hon. gentleman said, we understood geography. Everybody knows that the hon. member for Lambton does not like to hear the story of his achievements in connection with this work. We all remember that when he was in power, every allusion of an unfavourable character to any of his projects was met with a storm of indignation. It was the servile manner in which he was always sustained, by the unreasoning majority that stood at his back, that contributed to his irretrievable downfall. There is such a thing as being too powerful; and when my hon. friend found a mechanical majority behind him, ready to support any measure he brought forward, the hon. gentleman was carried away by the idea that his power would last for ever. I have no doubt he sincerely regrets now many things he did in the flush of his success, but his repentance comes too late. We, on this side, who were in the forlorn hope of 1874-78, have been treated, from time to time, with tirades of abuse from that hon. gentleman and his backers, here and elsewhere, because we ventured to question anything he did while in power. Not long ago that hon. gentleman rose in his place in the Committee of Public Accounts, when he was omnipotent there, and openly charged me with having made, behind the backs of my political opponents, charges which I dare not utter before their faces. He said, I was perambulating the country and slandering the hon. gentlemen who were then in power. I told him then, that it was not my habit to say anything in the absence of a political opponent that I would not say in his presence. I told him I was doing what I had a perfect right to do in criticising the political acts and political motives of those with whom I was in Opposition. My offence at that particular moment was, that I discovered an entry in some papers that I had asked for, which proved that a certain favourite of the hon. gentleman had been employed as a solicitor for the Government Valuers of the Fort William Town Plot, who was himself largely interested in the town lots to be valued. My hon. friend naturally was riled; his temper is not always saintly. But, Sir, from the time I entered public life until this day, I have never descended to make a personal attack upon