

HON. SIR. ALEX. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said :—It has not been usual, so far as I know, for the person in charge of this Bill at all events, to criticize its contents. It is the grant necessary to carry on the public service during the years mentioned. I move that the 41st rule be suspended and the Bill be read the second time now.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—Is there no member of this House who will make one single comment upon our voting away \$32,000,000?

HON. MR. DEVER—It is a good thing to have it.

HON. MR. MILLER—We do not vote it; the House of Commons votes it.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—I am surprised that the leader of the Opposition is not here in the discharge of his duty!

HON. MR. PLUMB—It shows the great confidence he has in the Government.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—Before making one or two observations on this Bill, I desire to avail myself of this opportunity to compliment the leader of this House and the Government upon the improved management of the Senate. Different members of this body have again and again, during former sessions, remonstrated with the present Administration for keeping us here two months with the most trivial Bills, and that the measures which are considered of importance have not been brought up until within a few hours of the end of the Session. I can compliment the leader of the House upon an improvement this Session, that we were kept here two months and a half, the first six weeks of which were spent in generally adjourning after half an hour's sitting, and a fortnight spent by some Senators with great diligence in the local elections of Ontario—I do not think it is right for members of this body to pass the time thus which ought to be devoted to the interests of the country! How long is this partizan action to be carried on which is so calculated to injure this body in public estimation? I make no personal charge against any members of this House in

connection with the local election, but I say that Senators who took part in it are insensibly dragging the good name of this body to the ground. They stamp us as a mere partizan body. Nothing could be more calculated to strengthen that feeling in the country, which I find has been increasing, for the abolition of the Senate. If that feeling should strengthen—if the industrious and intelligent people of this country who pay the taxes demand that the Senate shall be abolished, it will be very much due to such partizan action.

There is not time to enter upon a discussion of the details of this Supply Bill involving the expenditure of such a large amount of money. There are many items which I have no doubt my hon. friend, the member from Halifax, would willingly criticize, if the hon. member from Niagara would have patience with him—if he would not, as is his custom, discourage the hon. gentleman by trying to make it appear that the House generally is impatient—that my hon. friend lacks experience—

HON. MR. SKEAD—If the possession of long experience is worth anything, the hon. gentleman, who has had a great deal of it, should make a better use of it than he is doing to-day.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—The enormous increase of the public expenditure this year, amounting to \$4,000,000 is not wise. We cannot deny the fact that a very high tariff is at present imposed with the view of encouraging the growth of manufacturing industries in the Dominion. I have always advocated such a principle, but it is a question, now that such industries are becoming successful, whether we should go on increasing the tariff. The expenses of living in Canada are felt generally very excessive for so young a country. The Dominion is not rich. There may be an appearance of wealth. We see fine villa residences, rich equipages, but many of those who make this display of wealth terminate their career under different circumstances. I believe I state the fact when I say that the great body of our people feel now that the articles which enter into the daily consumption are too high. While certain barristers, merchants and speculators make incomes to support the present