

economy of the Government, they were getting larger. The House was promised that the abolition of the Legislative Council would effect a saving of from \$8,000 to \$7,000. Well, the Council had been abolished—not a dollar appeared for the Second Chamber in the estimates—and yet the expenditure went on increasing. He could not understand it.”

These are the utterances of a member from an important constituency, and of a gentleman who seems disposed to do his duty by his constituents.

I cannot close without a remark or two about the Minister of Public Works, Hon. Mr. Royal. His well known fondness for office enables him to be always in power. Governments may come and go, but he would go on forever. He is the politician of fortune, though I doubt very much if his king would care about losing the services of such a faithful soldier; and so long as there are powers and contingents behind the throne we must expect Joseph to wear the variegated coat.

A word or two more about the Better Terms delegation. There is some contradiction in the terms of the report. We have already seen that it was urged before the Ottawa Government that the demands for increased revenue originated chiefly from the fact that the population of the Province was rapidly increasing, etc. On page 4 of the delegates' petition we find the following over the signatures of Messrs. Royal and Davis:

“The claims of the Province were urged *solely* on the grounds of justice and equity, and by the comparison of the terms upon which Manitoba entered Confederation and the terms that were granted before and after to some of the sister Provinces.” We know this statement to be quite false, though it would have been better if it were true, as the claims of the Local Government, based solely upon the “spirit of economy” which they had infused into the administration of public affairs, would have been a hollow sham. But the occasion was not to be lost, and Messrs. Davis, Royal & Co. sought to establish good characters for themselves before Mr. Mackenzie and his associates, hence came the figures and statements which, if Mr. Mackenzie had examined, might have satisfied him that the delegates were a pair of political imposters trying to raise money under false pretences, and seeking to whitewash their political reputations.

That the Province has just and equitable direct claims against the Dominion I would be the last to deny. She has more—she has indirect claims for which the Dominion is responsible; but these latter cannot be exacted. The former, however, should be demanded as a right, not as a favor. A Province that contributes upwards of two hundred thousand dollars per annum to the Dominion Treasury in the shape of custom duties and gets in return a paltry \$60,000, has more to claim than a supplicating favor; nevertheless the Dominion Government are the custodians of our rights to a very great extent, and while dealing with us honestly and fairly, they should not repose the fullest confidence in the representations of political aspirants who obtained power by fraud and retain it by intrigue. It would be well to examine and investigate, and not take things for granted as Mr. Mackenzie seems to have done; nor was it a wise step to place an increased subsidy in