

induce Parliament to vote sums of money for the construction of public buildings, for the improvement of harbors, and the navigation of our rivers—that the Government is not justified in spending it in that way? These works and buildings are part of the assets of the Government. If we do not erect these buildings we would have to pay rents for inferior ones, and we know perfectly well that it has been, and necessarily will be, the policy of the Government of Canada, that whenever the funds of the Government admit it, these buildings shall be erected in every important town and city throughout the Dominion of Canada. The only question is whether the treasury will admit it, and how rapidly these works are to be undertaken. We know perfectly well that the trade and commerce of the country must largely depend on the facilities that are given to it. We have since 1867 expended a large sum of money in improving the navigation of our rivers, in improving our harbors, in establishing harbors of refuge throughout the country, and I do not hesitate to say that in my judgment, whenever the funds of the country will admit it, Parliament will justify the erection of these buildings for the public service throughout the Dominion just as rapidly as the work can be done. The next item is Interest, and under the head of increased expenditure for that item is the sum of \$651,297.06, paid in interest over and above the interest which was paid in 1877-78. Now, Mr. Speaker, a large portion of that interest is met by the increased receipts of interest, perhaps reducing it by \$300,000. But I am in a position to state here that, though that sum is nominally \$651,297 more than was paid in 1877-78, the net interest paid by the people of Canada during 1884, in proportion to its population, was less per head by $8\frac{1}{2}$ cents than it was in 1877-78. The next item that swells up the expenditure is the excess of \$337,746.65 paid into the Sink-