

largely increased the national debt, and I have no doubt they found a great many ready to believe them. No doubt it required some patience and some knowledge to analyze the financial position, and this was exactly what neither the average journalist nor his readers ever gave to the question. Perhaps I ought not to blame them too much for I found, to my own great surprise, that not a few even of our own colleagues were hopelessly at sea when they set about explaining the situation. Our opponents were wiser in their day and generation. They never argued the case but appealed boldly to the statements as detailed in the public accounts and demanded how the Reformers, who had condemned Sir John A. Macdonald for extravagance in spending nineteen millions a year, could justify an expenditure of twenty-three or twenty-four millions. What added to the difficulty was the fact that a great part of the additions made in 1873 were additions to the fixed charges which it was out of our power to reduce in any way.