

HON. MR. ALEXANDER — Every session for many years, the Senate has protested against the ways and methods of the First Minister of the Dominion, especially the way in which he demands a servile acquiescence in everything he does. Sir John Macdonald would make the impress upon the public mind that the Senate is of no utility whatever. That must be the effect of our passing such Bills without examination. No one can come to any other conclusion. Since three o'clock this afternoon we have had bills involving the expenditure of many millions of the public money brought before us, and at last we have this Supply Bill, with all the supplementary estimates, involving probably some \$38,000,000, and we are only to have five minutes to consider it before His Excellency the Governor-General comes to prorogue Parliament. Could there be a greater insult to this Chamber? Could anything be more calculated to impress the people of this country that the Senate is of no utility whatever and that it might as well be abolished? I have a suggestion to make to the hon. members of this House, which I do with all respect. The great body of our people are becoming alarmed and very justly alarmed. The merchants of Toronto, Montreal and all other cities are becoming alarmed that the present Government now without any check are increasing the public debt to such an extent that it must lead to wide spread discontent throughout the Dominion and may break up the Confederation. Party spirit and the struggle for party ascendancy I do not hesitate to say are becoming the curse of this Dominion. The system of responsible Government as introduced by the great Robert Baldwin if carried out in its integrity would prove the best in the world, but worked as it has been by the present First Minister it has become the madness of the many for the gain of the few—for the gain of the few who hold portfolios and the members with whom they surround themselves, that they may retain power and spend millions of the public money. There is no time to show how large a portion of this Bill is to be spent for party purposes. There is not time to show how money is recklessly voted for the construction of a ship marine railway, which if built, can

never be of practical utility, but the money has to be spent there, so that the voters in that part of Canada may support the party in power when the next general election takes place. There is no time to refer to the unnecessary construction of a second branch of the Intercolonial Railway to Pictou, or to the omnibus railway bill, which was brought in here so shamelessly to-day without giving us one moment to consider it. Need I refer to the sum of \$80,000 in the Supplementary Estimate, which we are asked to vote for the purpose of refunding license money exacted by the Commissioners named by Sir John Macdonald under an unconstitutional act? The provinces had the right to issue licenses and appoint the Commissioners, but the First Minister of the Dominion, for party purposes and with the view of injuring the Ontario Government, named Dominion commissioners and collected large sums of money, which the Government are now obliged to refund. Could there be more striking evidence of the Government's ignorance of constitutional law? Could there be any evidence more conclusive either that the present First Minister has cerebral softening or that his principle is all gone?

HON. GENTLEMEN—Order, order!

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—I say that it is melancholy to witness such administration. I find in the Supplementary Estimates the sum of \$11,000 voted to pay lawyers like Mr. Dalton McCarthy, a Conservative supporter of the Government, for defending such illegal and unconstitutional acts of the Dominion Government. Now we have the unseemly act of the Dominion Government sustaining the St. Catharines Lumber Company, who obtained timber limits from Sir John Macdonald, by a large money vote of \$11,000 to pay that Conservative lawyer, Mr. Dalton McCarthy. Who can justify such expenditures in the courts of justice rewarding partizan lawyers? I only desire to add, because I know His Excellency will be here in a very few moments, that if this Government remains in power it will go on with its illegal, careless and abandoned acts until it produces wide spread discontent, that may break up the Confederation. What could be more insulting to this