

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said that this incident showed conclusively that the Government should have taken some steps to provide a method for trying contested elections in the Province of Manitoba, as suggested by the hon. member for Durham West, and ought not to have waited for suggestions from that hon. member for the initiative devolved on them. He believed that the Government had been grossly wanting in its duty in not having brought before the House some suggestions on the mode of dealing with this question.

The subject then dropped.

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### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**Hon. Mr. MORRIS** moved concurrence in the amendments made in the Senate to the Bill respecting the metric or decimal system of weights and measures.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** objected; he could not understand the motive of the amendments, and thought the Bill ought to remain over. The Minister of Inland Revenue might be anxious to carry the Bill to contribute to his share of legislation, but it ought to stand over.

**Hon. Mr. MORRIS** said the amendment was simple and intelligible. The metric system, he believed, would yet be the international system of weights and measures. The Bill rendered it permissive, and defined its relation to our actual weights, and the amendment deferred its relation to the English system of Imperial measures. He thought the member for Châteauguay had not any Legislative record to boast of.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** would not seek for it beyond the present session. He had reversed the national policy as to the duties on coal and flour.

**Hon. Mr. MORRIS** knew that in the last hours of the session, the member for Châteauguay indulged in what he would call an elephantine playfulness. It was so unlike himself but he had to share the paternity of and change of duties with the member for Lévis (Mr. Blanchet) and the House, and though he had been a Finance Minister he could not point to a Budget, or a single measure of importance to the country originating with himself though he admitted the service he rendered in maintaining a rigid adherence to the rules of Parliament.

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### SUPPLY

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** moved the third reading of the Supply Bill.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said it was not his intention to offer any extended remarks on this motion, as the session had been a short one and the events connected with it were fresh in the minds of all. The record of this session was made up on the journals of the House, and he, for one, was willing that that record should go to the country without note or comment from him at all events. The session had undoubtedly been an eventful one. It was one that would be memorable in the annals of the country. (*Hear, hear.*) There could be no doubt whatever about that, but it would be chiefly memorable for this very Bill of Supply now before the House. That Bill of Supply could be fitly characterized by one adjective in our language. It was a reckless Bill of Supply.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** was quite satisfied to let the Bill go to the country. The hon. member for Châteauguay had characterized this Bill as a reckless one. He (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks) should like to hear the hon. member criticize that recklessness. It was true that the estimates were large but, as he had explained on a former occasion it was a consequence of extraordinary expenditure for Public Works, which would have been undertaken by his predecessor, but for the bad condition of the finances. To say that there was anything in this Bill which would involve the Dominion in debt was to say that which could not be substantiated by any of the items in the Bill. The item of \$410,000 for taking the census, for instance, was a very large one, and formed a considerable portion of the extraordinary expenses of this year. He could go over the public buildings about to be constructed, all extraordinary expenditures, none of them which the Government would be justified in coming down to the House, and asking an appropriation for, but for the fact that they had an overflowing treasury in consequence of the prosperity of the country. He agreed with the hon. member for Châteauguay, that the flourishing state of the finances was what no Finance Minister could take credit for, but it had happened to be his (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks') good fortune to have a similar state of prosperity, whenever he occupied the position. He was quite satisfied that there was no difficulty whatever, with regard to meeting the charges which were placed on the country by this Bill.

**Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North)** said he had no intention to refer to financial matters, but would leave that to the hon. member for Châteauguay, and other abler hands than his own. He could not, however, let the remarks which had just fallen pass without comment. The Hon. Finance Minister had denied that the Supply Bill was open to the charge of being a reckless one. There were two or three features in it which would be regarded by the sober thinking taxpayers of this country as fairly open to the charge made by the hon. member for Châteauguay. The Hon. Minister of Customs made a point in favour of the construction of the Pacific railway by saying there was a constant increase in the revenue, and that the burdens this country was about to assume, would not be felt in consequence. But these extraordinary expenditures referred by the Finance Minister were ever recurring. It had always been the case that the extraordinary expenditures eat up the surplus revenue, and in this growing Dominion with its ever increasing wants, it would always be the same. Looking at these facts, therefore, the hon. Finance Minister should regard these as normal instead of