

It is thus made plain that the Controllable Expenditure for 1879-80, amounting to \$11,015,797, was less than it had been for five of the six preceding financial years, being—

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| \$1,112,737 | less than for | 1873-74 |
| 577,572 | " " | 1874-75 |
| 1,192,105 | " " | 1875-76 |
| 239,342 | " " | 1876-77 |
| 561,019 | " " | 1878-79 |

The year 1877-78 shows a decrease of \$71,157 as compared with 1879-80. These results rest on data that are given in the Public Accounts and can be easily verified.

I challenge the Opposition to disprove the correctness of any one of them.

Their Orators, both in and out of Parliament, who with great unfairness, I might say with great dishonesty, carefully abstain, when instituting comparisons, from separating what is controllable from what is not, must be conscious that they have been detected in misrepresenting the expenditure of the present Government, and they should feel mortified and humbled when they scan the table that proves that the controllable expenditure for 1879-80 was \$1,192,105 less than for Mr. Mackenzie's second complete year in office, 1875-76, and was less than for any year of his Administration, notwithstanding the annual recurrence then of heavy deficits, except in 1877-78, when, owing to the exposure of his extravagance in the Senate and being on the eve of the General Election, he temporarily retrenched, in the expectation doubtless of a renewed five years' lease of power and of a continuance of reckless expenditure during the term. In 1877-78 the expenditure for Militia and Defence and for Public Works paid for out of income was reduced below that of 1875-76 by no less a sum than \$1,310,741, but such was the extravagance in other departments that the controllable expenditure for 1877-78, as I have already shewn, was only \$72,213 less than that for 1879-80. The pretended retrenchment of 1877-78 could only have been intended as a political subterfuge.

It was, however, too late. The people had lost faith in the falsely-styled Reform party. They had raised the leaders of that party to power to enable them to fulfil their pledges of economy and retrenchment, but instead of doing so, those leaders had run up the controllable expenditure to the highest figure it has reached since Confederation.

The decrease of the gross controllable expenditure is not, however, the only gratifying, nor even the most gratifying fact that is disclosed by an examination of the Public Accounts, and the more closely they are examined, the more abundant will be the evidence of careful administration by the present Government.

I shall not extend this letter by dwelling on minor proofs of this, but will content myself by pointing to what has been accomplished in the Departments of Customs and of Railways and Canals.