

in sending such inaccurate statements abroad, and making charges against the Government utterly inconsistent with the facts. The first thing we shall have coming to us across the Atlantic will be a newspaper announcement that we pay \$26 65 for every emigrant we get from the Mother Country. The next subject of attack is the militia expenditure, which shows a reduction of \$426,925 from the year 1873-74. The hon. gentleman says it is quite impossible that such a reduction can be right. The change as I understand it, is simply this: that heretofore 40,000 militia were drilled every year; but by this curtailment it is proposed, while the present financial stringency exists, that the 40,000 militiamen shall be divided into two bodies, and one-half drilled yearly in alternate order. We all, I am sure, earnestly desire that the militia force of the Dominion shall be maintained in full efficiency; but in such times as the present how can this temporary modification of the practice be made just subject of indignant complaint, especially from the mouths of such ardent economists as the hon. gentleman opposite? The next item in the hon. senator's bill of complaint was the reduction of \$192,642 on Manitoba land surveys. "What reduction," the hon. gentleman exclaims, "is there in that? You have reduced the surveys by that amount—is that economy? You will stop them next year altogether—will that, too, be a saving? And if any one is entitled to credit, to whom should it go but to those that drove the Government to it?" Ah, it is so hard to please the hon. gentleman! If you don't retrench he abuses you, and if you do retrench he is worse than ever. The next item is one about which the hon. gentleman raised a terrible hullabaloo—the item of Departmental Telegraphing. He read from the Public Accounts the statement that the cost of this service in 1873-4 (the last of the Macdonald Government) was but \$20,925, while in the first year of the present Government it was \$38,507. And how excited the honourable gentleman did become about it, to be sure! Well, this did appear to me a very large sum, and so I dropped into the Finance Department and asked an explanation of it from one of the officers of the Department. He went at once and looked into the matter, and I am sure the hon. gentleman will be relieved and delighted when he hears that in 1873-4 there were only three-fourths of the year's telegraphing included, and that in 1874-5 there were five quarters charged. (Loud cries of hear, hear.) It so happened that the quarterly bill of the Telegraph Company was delayed so long that the Government accounts for the year were closed before it could be certified, and it had, of course, to go to the next year's accounts. The effect of this correction of the hon. gentleman's figures entirely changes the aspect of the telegraphic complaint, and I call the hon. gentleman's attention to the great economy effected by the present Ministry on the lavish disbursements of his own friends. The contrast now stands as follows:

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| 1873-4..... | \$32,107 |
| 1874-5..... | 19,326 |
| 1875-6..... | 19,421 |
| 1876-7..... | 15,255 |

There is another charge that the hon. gentleman preferred against the Administration, and it is the last left for consideration. I refer to the transaction known as the Intercolonial Suspense Account—and a very

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