

he was to administer a portion of that department in addition to his own. That declaration the hon. Minister of Marine has not contradicted in this House. He was accompanied by the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. Johnston) and North Ontario (Mr. Grant) to the city of Hamilton, and if we cannot get the information we desire from the hon. Minister of Finance, perhaps these hon. gentlemen, who had the confidence no doubt of the Minister of Marine at Hamilton, may be able to enlighten the House. My hon. friend from Selkirk (Mr. McCreary) is not open to the charge of criticising the items of the expenditure. If we were to depend on the government supporters for criticisms of these items, there would be no check on the expenditure at all. We are therefore within our rights when we ask for information on these important items, and in doing so we are not asking any favour from our hon. friends opposite. Hon. gentlemen opposite are very apt during elections to accuse the opposition of not having moved to strike out certain items of expenditure. But do they forget that during the eighteen years they were in opposition, and when they were given credit in the press to some extent for the manner in which they discussed the estimates, out of over \$600,000,000 asked by Conservative administrations, only a trifle of that total was objected to by the then opposition. It is not the duty of an opposition to simply object to an item and then call for a division. You cannot point to any opposition in any enlightened country which follows that course. If we were to do that, we would be here from January to December. It is not our policy, nor is it our duty to place ourselves on record, by calling for a vote on every particular item. We recognize that the hon. Minister of Public Works has not been long in the position, and are therefore not harrassing him with all kinds of serious questions. We could ask him very important and serious questions, but as he is a new minister in that department, it would be unreasonable to expect him to answer serious questions in connection with items with which he cannot possibly be acquainted. Therefore our courtesy to that hon. gentleman has been such, that we even find government supporters finding fault with us for the mildness of the criticisms we offer from time to time on the expenditure of his department. The opposition are entitled to ask any questions they chose with reference to the estimates, and we propose to exercise that right. Whether our criticisms be mild or severe it is for us to consider. We are not here by reason of the good graces of hon. members opposite, but are here because we have secured the votes of the people in our respective constituencies and have won our elections in an honourable manner and are proud of it. I am very glad that these remarks are

Mr. INGRAM.

so highly applauded and that hon. gentlemen on both sides appreciate that fact. I would wish very much that hon. gentlemen opposite could make the same statement.

An hon. MEMBER. What about Gamey?

Mr. INGRAM. I am very glad to have that interruption. Sir, if the gentlemen who have sworn against Mr. Gamey, if I may put it in that way—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. INGRAM. I am quite in order. If the gentlemen who have sworn against Mr. Gamey have sworn quite truthfully, there is one thing I can congratulate Mr. Gamey on, and that is that the money deposited in court and before the commission, if the statement of these hon. gentlemen are to be believed, he will have the satisfaction of spending for his private purposes or whatever purpose he chooses.

An hon. MEMBER. What has that to do with the items?

Mr. INGRAM. We are not confined to the items now, but have a roving commission and we propose to take advantage of it until the government are prepared to come down and give us the information we require. The chief object of this government seems to be how best they can accommodate themselves to every wind that blows in order to secure votes and keep in office. I remember when the government came into office in 1896, they were most innocent and unsophisticated, they were in their childhood and kindergarten days, and whenever the opposition asked a question, they got up and answered it frankly. They changed their tactics, and you cannot get them to answer any question now until they get a good 'ready' on, and I tell you it takes a long time for the government to get a 'ready' on. I am glad to find my hon. friends opposite so heartily enjoying themselves. I am glad to find them taking my remarks so pleasantly, and I trust I shall always have my remarks accepted as pleasantly by hon. gentlemen opposite. The members of the government seem lost to all sense of duty and fair-play, and persist in remaining silent in their places and refusing to give the information we ask and to answer the very important question we have put. I do not know whether my hon. friend the Finance Minister considers that the very indefinite answer he has given is going to satisfy the public or the opposition. But I can assure him that from time to time, we will persist in our efforts to secure the information we ask. The government will certainly make a very great mistake if it should divide up the Department of Public Works and hand a portion of it over to the Minister of Marine (Hon. Mr. Préfontaine), who seems to think that it is no part of his duty to occupy his seat in this House