

asked to vote \$3,200,000. That is a large sum of money. The Finance Minister tells us that we should call a halt: I agree with him. He says in his Budget Speech that we ought shortly to diminish our indebtedness: I agree with him. It is true the other House is responsible for voting the money of the people, but we have a duty also to perform in the interest of the country. Are we doing right to vote this money on such short notice, without knowing anything about it? I confess that I do not know much about it, except in the case of a few railways in the vicinity of my own home. I know it would be a blessing to this country if the Senate of Canada were to throw out this Bill, because these grants have been forced from the Government. Deputation after deputation has been sent to urge the Government to grant assistance to railways. We have done wonders in this country, and have been very prosperous. We have been carrying full sail since Confederation. The revenue has been increasing all the time, and so it will go on increasing as long as the purchasing power of the people continues, but if we have a short crop in this country and the purchasing power of the people diminishes, where is the purchasing power to come from? We ought to put our House in order. There is no doubt in my mind at all that when the Finance Minister made the remarks which I am about to read he had that in view. He says:

"It seemed to me that we ought not, after the close of the year 1889, to increase the public debt, that we ought not to increase the public expenditure for ordinary expenses, and that it was possible, by a prudent course, without stinting the public service in any way, to carry on this service in a generous manner to meet the capital obligation which we had already assumed, and to go to the year 1892 without adding to our public debt."

Is it not time to stop all but proper enterprises to promote the settlement of this country? I do not stand here to say that the Government should not encourage, in every way, legitimate enterprises, but how do I know that these are proper? Am I going to take it on trust? I have not had time to examine this Bill, and I do not care to take anything on trust from the House of Commons. I venture to say that the Government of the country have got to take it a good deal on trust themselves. I urge the Government, if they want to aid any such enterprises, to bring down their measure earlier in the Session,

so that we may know what they are going to do. If there was ever any country in the world that went railway mad this country is going railway mad now. Can anyone in this House justify the expenditure of this large sum of money without knowing what it is for? Suppose when we go home we are asked by the people we represent here why we voted aid to these several railways, what answer can we give? Can we say whether the roads are to be built for opening up unsettled portions of the country, or whether the money is going into the hands of speculators? For the life of me I could not say. I am satisfied that some of these grants are going into the hands of speculators; I do not know how many of them will be for the advantage of the public, but I know that some of these roads are running right alongside of other railways, and that there are portions of the country which are much more in need of railways than where some of these lines are to run. I know this, but what am I to do? If I could throw out the whole thing by my vote I would do it, because I believe I would be doing good service to the country and to the Government. I remember on the occasion that I spoke of before, in the Ontario Legislature, I tried to throw out the Subsidy Bill and divided the House on it, but it went through, and I am satisfied that this Bill will go through; but I thought I should not let it pass without entering my protest. The leader of the House says that the amount of the subsidies this year is less than it was last year. How much less? I do not see much difference. The amount this year is \$3,276,014; last year it was \$3,088,000.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—\$1,114,000 is the re-vote.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—And it will be a re-vote next year. If my vote could throw out this Bill I would gladly give it, but I know I could not get any support. Why? Because this thing is equally divided all over the Provinces of the Dominion. Like the case of the prisoner who stole the hams, each one of the jury had a piece of the pork and none of them would convict him. If there is a railway subsidized in one man's locality it is natural that he should vote for the whole \$3,000,000 in order that he may get his portion