

got absolutely legal proof, that the population from 1897 to 1900 has increased about 100,000 families, so that Mr. Foster was prepared with 1,000,000 families to have expended \$10.75 per family on account of interest, while Mr. Fielding, with 1,100,000 families, is expending \$9.90 per family for payment of interest, being about 85 cents per family less than was expected to be expended by Mr. Foster himself. I think that will satisfy every reasonable man in Canada, whatever else we have done, we have not acted extravagantly; we have kept well within bounds in any increase which we have found it necessary to make for the carrying out of important works. And remember that this addition of seven million dollars represents an expenditure of many millions on our canals, represents the expenditure of a very considerable amount on the Intercolonial Railway and the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and certain other railways, all of which will contribute largely to swell the receipts of the people of Canada.

The Attacks on Mr. Tarte.

Then again, I notice that a vehement attack was made on my friend, Mr. Tarte, who, no doubt, will answer it in good time, with respect to what they call his profligate expenditure on public works. Now, I have got here a statement up to the 30th of June, 1900, furnished me by the finance department, showing the total expenditure on public works. I will give you Mr. Tarte's expenditure in the last four years, and I want you to contrast this expenditure with the expenditure of those gentlemen during the time when they were reasonably prosperous. In 1897 Mr. Tarte expended \$1,463,000 on public works chargeable to income. In 1898 he expended \$1,701,000; in 1899, \$1,902,000, and in 1890, \$2,295,000—a large sum. Here is their record: In 1884 the late administration expended on public works \$2,908,000; in 1885 they expended \$2,302,000; in 1886, \$2,046,000; in 1887 they expended \$2,133,000; in 1888 they expended \$2,162,000, and in 1889 they expended \$2,299,000. Now, if Mr. Tarte has been profligate in his expenditure, what are we to say of those gentlemen who during a period of six or seven years never allowed the expenditure to sink below two million dollars?

Sir, the simple fact is this: When we came into office we found two things. We found, as I have said, that the public works had been starved, had been grossly neglected, and that numerous heavy repairs were necessary and had to be done in order to put these works in proper order; and we found another thing—we found that in those seventy or eighty constituencies which in time past have customarily returned Liberals and had not supported the government of the day, no public works had been constructed at all. No matter how urgent the works were, they had not been carried out. Sir, I say this: I say that it was the duty of the Liberal government, I say it is Mr. Tarte's duty to repair the negligence of his predecessor, and to see that justice is done. You know, every one of you, that little hamlets with a population of only two or three hundred families, when it suited the government's purposes, were presented with costly public buildings at the public expense. You also know that in the