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expenditure for public services which satisfied this country in 1867?"

We have been increasing the number of lighthouses giving protection and bounties to the fisheries, and it is impossible that this could all be done if we go back to the expenditure of 1867. Now the fact is that instead of the burden of the people being \$4.50 per head of the population it is only \$5.40. Let us consider what the increase has been. Why, in this great expanse of territory, with its great public services extending in every direction—in 1878, when our friends took office, the burden upon the people was \$4.37 per head, and it is only \$5.40 now. Therefore, for the great advance Canada has made in the increase of her commerce, and the gigantic development of her public works, which have elicited the attention of the world, the increased burden since we took office in 1878, is but \$1.03 per head and that is not making any allowance for the money we have sent to the provincial treasuries to relieve the provinces of the burdens which fell upon them. (Applause.) Now as another test, let me call your attention to the way in which the burdens have been imposed by the present government, because if we have made them bear hard upon the people, we ought to be condemned. The finance minister made the statement, which has not been challenged, although listened to by the ablest critics, that we have since our accession to office in 1878 increased the revenue by taxation on that class of goods which can most easily pay the increased burdens, and that we have not increased the burdens upon the working people by placing duties upon those staples which enter into their living expenses. On silks and velvets we have raised \$180,000, on spirits and wines \$642,000, on jewellery \$156,000, and if you omit these articles of luxury we have only increased the tariff by about three-quarters of one per cent. (Applause.)

Dr. Hutchinson—What about coal and flour?

Hon. Mr. Thompson—The coal and flour tax do not increase the burdens of the people. The coal used here is chiefly from Nova Scotia and does not pay duty, and the American is decreased in price in consequence of the competition caused by Nova Scotia coal. The price of flour is not as much to-day as it was before the flour duties were imposed and does not increase the burdens of the people of Canada one cent per head. I can assure you, however, the policy which placed the duty on American coal has given employment to thousands of operatives in the Province of Nova Scotia—(applause)—has enabled thousands of my fellow countrymen to earn their bread in their own country by the labour of their own hands which they could not do under the rule of Mr. Mackenzie. I am able to tell him also as the people Ontario will tell you that even where the Nova Scotia coal cannot be carried in consequence of the difficulty of freighting, and the American coal comes in, the American coal is lower in price now than it was before, because Nova Scotia coal will take its place if the price is increased.

Now, sir, I have said so much upon financial questions and the hour is so late—(Cries of "go on, go on") but having answered these charges made unfairly against the administration of the day, I proceed in closing to call your attention to one other point. We are accused of attempting to get a verdict from the people of Canada simply because we have done our duty in executing a great criminal in the Northwest—the statement is untrue. You have heard to-day on your own platform the account the Hon. Minister of the Interior has rendered to you of our defence in respect to the trouble in the Northwest. You have heard also the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries justify his management of his department. We are ready in like manner in every place to defend the conduct of the government upon every question and it is utterly untrue that we wish to catch the vote and retain public confidence because we have executed a criminal, but let me call the attention of the people of this and the neighboring province and especially the liberals to the policy presented by the opposition to-day. Let me call your attention to the fact that while we do not claim your verdict on any such ground, the party opposed to us are endeavouring to make political capital out of the fact that we performed our duty in carrying the law into execution. (Applause.) At the time when Reil was elected to parliament, and when he was expelled therefrom, his conduct was necessarily brought to the notice of the house of commons by the persons who claimed he was not fit to represent any portion of the Canadian people, and then the Hon. Edward Blake cheered to the echo in the house the statement that he (Reil) ought not to be allowed to take his seat in the house of commons of Canada because he had committed "a foul and damnable murder." Years passed by sir, and when Reil had committed a greater offence, this same gentleman turns around and says it is only a political offence, that he was a harmless lunatic, and should not suffer the penalty of the law.

He got into power in Ontario by denouncing Reil's crime as foul and damnable, yet when the same crime has been repeated, attended by circumstances of a character ten fold more atrocious. He attempts to get into power by declaring that we are to be censured for executing a lunatic. I see by the report of his speech that he puts his argument on the ground that a person who has been twice in lunatic asylums must be always regarded as of doubtful sanity. But, sir, what was the statement of the gentlemen in whose charge he had been on those occasions? It was that he had simply taken refuge there for the purpose of avoiding retributive justice and the effects of indignation at his atrocious conduct. To prove that those officials were not duped, I will read the certificate of one of the medical men in charge, certificates which Mr. Blake has carefully omitted to read, but the truth of which he never attempted to contradict. Here is the certificate.

"I the undersigned physician of the asylum of St. Jean de Dieu, certify that a few days after the entrance of Louis Riel into the