

problems as those proposed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Certainly he would rather do that, scandal mongering, the digging out of alleged and supposed graft, has more attraction to my hon. friend than the consideration of these great problems. It makes my blood boil—I may be young, while my hon. friend may be ancient in his seat—but it makes my blood boil to sit here and waste the time of this House week after week, and month after month, what at? A lot of pettifogging, alleged scandal. Ninety per cent of the charges made by hon. gentlemen opposite are absolutely foundationless. I have not the slightest objection to any hon. gentleman in this House, be he a member of the Opposition or a supporter of the Government, rising in his seat during these strenuous times and calling the attention of the House to well-established irregularities. But the wasting of the time of the House seems to me to be a serious evil, and many hon. gentlemen opposite deplore it as much as I do, because they have told me so with their own lips. You do not hear them talking on these petty graft scandals. I say they deplore the attitude assumed by some hon. gentlemen opposite in this matter, at a time when the House should be paying attention to these great problems. My hon. friend called the supporters of the Government a group of young spendthrifts. I had under my hand the other night, a list of the figures of the hon. gentleman's department prior to the accession to office of the present Government, and I think that any comparison of the records of the two Governments in this respect must result favourably to the present Government. Take, for instance, the Public Works Department, of whose spendthrift policy we have heard so much from my hon. friend. He has moved that certain Estimates be cut in two, willy nilly, whether they are needed or not. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Public Works saved on his appropriation last year upwards of \$12,000,000. Instead of making false criticisms, it would come very much better from the lips of the hon. member for St. John and others if they would hand out a little commendation once in a while when the Government does perform a good act. Take, for instance, the fitting up of this building. Within three days of the fire we were in here, comfortable; and we have been comfortable ever since. What has it cost? The whole fitting up of this building was done out of the savings of last year's appropriation on the maintenance

[Mr. Stevens.]

of Government buildings. The sum of \$39,000 was all that was spent in the fitting up of this building, and the work was done in a remarkably short time.

Then the Minister of Trade and Commerce gave a detailed statement showing the activities of his department which, through the whole regime of my right hon. friend who leads the Opposition, was a dead letter, an absolutely useless department, a sinecure. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce has given us a splendid resume of what his department has accomplished, and is accomplishing. My hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Pugsley) said a moment ago: Here we have right south of the line the greatest market in the world, and, instead of bothering ourselves with the foreign markets in Europe, why do we not develop that market. Does my hon. friend consider that the market of Russia to which the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is giving particular attention now, is a market to be ignored? There is a country with 170,000,000 people, comparatively undeveloped; a country that will demand in the next few years more railroad steel, more construction steel than any other country in the world; a country which requires certain natural products that we have in abundance, such as silver, copper and lead, and from which we can import many valuable articles which we can not and do not produce at home. It is a country which may be reached by both our seaboards with equal facility, through Archangel and the Baltic ports on the Atlantic side, and through Vladivostock on the Pacific side; a country which is open to our trade, waiting for development, and having a population of 170,000,000. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce sends one of the ablest trade commissioners the department ever had to investigate the trade of that country; he makes excellent reports, and all he receives by way of support from hon. gentlemen opposite, if the hon. member for St. John speaks for them, is sneers and ridicule. I am surprised at the attitude of hon. gentlemen opposite. I did expect that the remarks of the Minister of Trade and Commerce would have some support from them.

My hon. friend from St. John actually blames the Government for the high freight rates on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. This Government—he did not say so in so many words, but the insinuation was there, and that is about all we get nowadays, in-