

vagance when they were in Opposition, but when they get into power they run riot with the people's money. They tell us it is a growing time, and we all know it is a growing time in extravagant expenditure. When they were in Opposition, did they not tell us when we had a surplus that it did not make any difference, because the people paid the taxes anyhow, and now, instead of applying the excess revenue to wiping out the national debt, they are devoting it to finding jobs for their friends and wasting it in all kinds of schemes. I challenge the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) if he can honestly defend any of these extravagant expenditures? Is what was wrong when he was on this side of the House, right because his friends are in power? They dinned in our ears that thirteen Ministers were too many, and after listening to them day after day, I became almost convinced that there was something in it. They have thirteen Ministers, with two controllers, at \$7,000 a year each, and we have not heard a word this session about the napkins down at Government House.

Mr. WALLACE. Were there any applicants for this besides Mr. Stewart?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. No.

Mr. WALLACE. I see that these recommendations of Mr. Stewart are more than three months old; they are dated last April. How was it that Mr. Stewart and his friends knew that this office was going to be created, and no one else knew it until these Estimates came down? I would like to ask if there are any recommendations of Mr. Stewart besides those we have had to-day?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. No, these are all.

Mr. WALLACE. Did not the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) recommend him?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. No.

Mr. WALLACE. That is strange, because I am sure that he would be very anxious to have him out of the way at the next election. The hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) has made some recommendations. Does the Minister intend to take them into his serious consideration?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. If the hon. member for East Simcoe will put them in writing, I will consider them.

Mr. FOSTER. They are on "Hansard"; that is better.

Mr. McMULLEN. I want to make a short reply to the hon. member for East Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane). I thought that at the commencement of this session we had thoroughly threshed out all these matters.

Mr. WALLACE. The threshing machine has been working ever since.

Mr. McMULLEN. I thought it was generally understood that we would try to rush through the business of the House; otherwise, I would try to answer my hon. friend. I have always been a strong advocate of economy, and am still; at the same time I am prepared to see the services of the country properly conducted. I believe the services of this man are required, or the Minister of the Interior would not appoint him. I do not believe in appointing unnecessary officials, and when any officials are not necessary, I will be as willing to cut down their numbers as the hon. member for East Northumberland.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). There can be no question about the necessity of protecting the forests of the North-west.

Mr. FOSTER. No such question has been raised.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I would draw attention to section 78 of chapter 54 of our Revised Statutes, which makes it incumbent upon the Minister of the Interior, or whoever is in charge of the interests of the North-west, to pay due attention to the protection of the growing timber.

The Governor in Council may, from time to time, for the preservation of forest trees on the crests and slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and for the proper maintenance throughout the year of the volume of water in the rivers and streams which have their sources in such mountains and traverse the North-west Territories, reserve from sale, lease or license such portions of the land in the North-west Territories on, or adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains.

And so forth. Any one who takes an interest in the question, knows how important it is to preserve the forests, especially those in which are the sources of the rivers, and which are necessary to maintain the irrigation and the fertility of the lands, for we know that on the maintenance of these forests largely depends, not only the regular supply of water now in our rivers, but also the agricultural prosperity of the country.

Mr. HUGHES. I would like to ask the Minister of the Interior to give me the name of one square mile of timber in the North-west Territories which is not taken up?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. My hon. friend has certainly got a very mistaken idea of the timber of the North-west Territories. There is only a comparatively small portion of the timber of the North-west Territories taken up. There is a vast quantity of the timber in the North-west Territories which has never been touched, and of which only the vaguest reports are in the possession of the department; and they have not been advertised nor sold, and are