

—how they are to reduce their staffs and cultivate economy. He seems to think that Ministers do not feel the responsibilities which rest on them, that they are entirely reckless in their expenditures of the public money; and yet, forsooth, the hon. gentleman, who possesses this great secret for restoring the prosperity of the country—this philosopher's stone—fails to tell us all about it. He is waiting, I suppose, until his friends come into power to make the announcement, and then the country will come up again, and we will all become wealthy in some extraordinary way. I do think the hon gentleman ought to inform us how we can legislate in such a way as to remove the prevailing depression. The hon. gentleman has told us of the terrible blight which has fallen on the country in the shape of the present Administration. He has pointed out items in the controllable expenditure which could be saved, and he says that \$2,000,000 have been added unnecessarily. I have the table before me that has been quoted so often, and in the Blue Book which my hon friend takes as his authority, and which is the only authority we can recognize for the last fiscal year we have any record of, I find the controllable expenditure in that year was \$6,835,000, and that for the former year it had been \$8,569,000. This Administration, when a year of depression came, cut down the expenditure at once, and saved \$2,000,000 instead of adding that amount. Running back to 1875-6, I find the expenditure was \$7,868,000—a million dollars more than the expenditure was in the last fiscal year—and I find that in 1873-4, the last year of the late Administration, the controllable expenditure was \$8,324,000, or nearly \$2,000,000 more than we expended last year, notwithstanding the fact that we have carried on improvements on the canals of the country, and have been proceeding with the construction of the Pacific Railway, for which large sums of money had to be raised in England. On those loans we have had to pay interest, and yet we have been able to keep down the expenditure to the figures I have mentioned. The gross expenditure of 1876-7 was \$23,519,000, against an expenditure in 1873-4 of \$23,316,000; showing an increase of only \$200,000, notwithstanding the fact that we have been prosecuting

*Hon. Mr. Scott,*

great enterprises, and notwithstanding the steel rails purchase, of which we have heard so much, the expenditures on the Welland and Lachine canals, the expenditure on the Pacific Railway, and the admission of Prince Edward Island to the Union. How was this done? Because our Finance Minister, whose abilities have been depreciated so very often in this Chamber, and who, like myself, is one of the incompetent colleagues of the Premier, has managed to get our money at a very much cheaper rate, notwithstanding the depression of the times, and the loss of a considerable portion of our trade, than former Finance Ministers did. We have all these facts staring us in the face.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—But they are not the facts. The hon. gentleman says the present Finance Minister got money cheaper than any other former Finance Minister. I deny that.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I say he did get money cheaper. There is the proof of it—that the expenditure last fiscal year was only \$200,000 more than the expenditure of 1873-4. There are the figures; they cannot be denied. Whether the money is charged to the suspense account, or any other account, the figures are there, and they cannot be combatted. The hon. gentleman has stated that the country lost \$3,000,000 by Mr. Cartwright's loans, yet the system pursued by Mr. Cartwright is now being tried in other countries.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY—Did not Mr. Rose try it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—He could not. Mr. Cartwright obtained the loans at four per cent., and by that means he has gradually brought down the expenditure year by year; and anybody who studies the Public Accounts will see that the effect of the reduced interest will be considerable in a short time. As our Public Works increase, the actual amount we will have to pay for the larger amount of debt will be less than we have been paying for the smaller amount—in other words, we are practically getting our Public Works constructed without any additional charge to the country, because we are getting our money cheaper than ever before.