

years naturally develops the desirability of changes from time to time, and if any change is made by the efforts of the Government, it will not be the first change of this kind made in the experience of Canada. You will bear in mind that a change was formerly made when the office of Secretary of State for the Provinces was abolished and the present Department of the Interior was substituted. The country will be deeply interested in the reference made in this Speech from the Throne to temperance legislation. Uniformity of legislation upon the temperance question throughout the Dominion is, of course, in the highest degree desirable. The terms of the late decision of the Supreme Court are held to be indefinite and ambiguous. The Government, I have no doubt, have foreshadowed a measure that will at least be more satisfactory to the country than the present Temperance Act, and will go as far as it is possible to go to meet the wishes of temperance men. The Speech closed with a reference to the Estimates for the ensuing year, and I may, in this connection, be permitted to indulge in some remarks with reference to the growth of expenditure under the old and under the present Administration. The expenditure the first year after Confederation was, in round numbers, \$13,500,000. The expenditure had increased during the seven years they held office to \$23,316,000; in other words, under the late Administration, the expenditure had increased at the rate of somewhat more than \$1,400,000 per annum. I believe that the gross expenditure of the past fiscal year will be found to be in round numbers, \$23,500,000, an increase in four years of \$200,000, or \$50,000 per annum against an increase under the preceding Administration of \$10,000,000, or \$1,400,000 per annum. At the time that the present Administration entered office, Canada was, if I may be allowed the expression, entering upon a new phase of her national existence. Canada was just about to be called upon to make vast appropriations in carrying out pledges made by the late Administration. An empire had, but a short time before, been added to the domain of the Dominion, and it devolved upon the present Government

to lay the foundations of an empire there; to make provisions in that country for the protection of its settlers; to purchase from the Indian tribes of that country the lands which they had from time immemorial occupied; and, in the payment of Indian annuities, in expenses incurred for the maintenance of a Mounted Police Force; in giving to that country civil institutions, and in other expenses rendered necessary in connection with that region,—the Government was called upon to incur vastly increased expenditures—expenditures which the Government of Canada had never been called upon to incur before. This Government was called upon to carry forward, in some modified form, the Pacific Railway scheme, and, in the prosecution of that enterprise, vast sums of money have necessarily been expended. The Government was called upon to carry forward the policy of enlarging the canals of the Dominion, and, in carrying forward this policy, vast sums of money were expended; and it had to incur expenditures in connection with various other enterprises in the Maritime Provinces; and, in not one of the items of expenditure that I have named, did the Government enter upon the expenditure of money in consequence of its own acts, but in every one of these cases they were entered into by its predecessors; and, in the carrying out of these expenses, the Administration of the present day has been called upon to expend millions annually in addition to the ordinary expenses of Government under the previous Administration. And yet, in view of this fact, they are enabled to present such an exhibit as I have named to the country. They have effected a saving of millions per annum. They have necessarily retrenched sharply in various directions. If this be the case, this Government has been in the highest degree economical, and has been singularly successful in reducing the expenditure of Government; and I am happy to congratulate the Government upon their discretion as shown in the character of the legislation that they have put upon the Statute-book; I am happy to congratulate the Government upon their economy, as shown in the policy of the reduction of the expenditures of