

the lowest tariff ever in force in this country, as these gentlemen have shown, we had enough money to provide liberally for the public service, and also were enabled to reduce the taxes of the people by \$2,000,000 per annum, and to roll up a surplus revenue of \$16,000,000 during six years. What was the first demand these gentlemen made? The taxation which had given an abundance before was not enough for them. They themselves say that the amount of \$23,316,000 was the largest expenditure we ever made. The estimates that they made and obtained for their first year from this Parliament were for \$26,800,000. You will find that these gentlemen, who said that the taxation upon the people of this country would not give them money enough to meet their expenditures, and that they must levy an additional taxation of \$3,000,000 upon the people, instead of retrenching their expenditure have increased it. You will find, also, that by a correct statement of the accounts—by a correct comparative statement of the accounts which I have made again and again publicly, and which has never been successfully assailed—you will find that their expenditures in three years were \$5,000,000 more than the expenditure in the largest and most extravagant year of that Government which they had denounced for extravagance; and yet the hon. gentleman, the hon. the Minister of Finance, is now levying \$3,500,000 of additional taxation. Instead of having a surplus revenue to reduce the public debt, as the late Government did, they are rolling up deficits year after year. What is the reason that this Speech that is put into our hands has no reference to the balance of the public accounts for this year? What is the reason that this Finance Minister, who in 1874, when no deficit existed, declared in the face of the Speech of the Governor General that there was a deficit—that the expenditure had exceeded the income, does not inform us how the account now stands? What is the reason that the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) is put up to give a statement of the public accounts

for the past year, which no gentleman has ever seen, and yet leaves the House in doubt as to the balance of the public accounts during the past year? I tell you why it is; it is because he has to admit, and will be compelled by the Public Accounts to admit, that they show a deficit this year of something like \$1,500,000 to be added to the \$2,000,000 of deficit that he met Parliament with last year. Yet this gentleman, expending \$5,000,000 more in three years of the public money of this country, levying \$3,500,000 more taxes per annum on the people of the country, is rolling up deficits year after year to the extent of about \$3,500,000, notwithstanding their enormous additional taxation, yet this gentleman declares to this House that they have been characterized by an adhesion to principle. There is a principle that they have adhered to—the greatest extravagance and most wasteful expenditure of the public money; and not only wasteful, but corrupt, and levying that out of the additional taxation wrung from the people of Canada. Well, Sir, there was another great principle that this gentleman propounded. I ask you, Sir, who heard the declamation from this side of the House in reference to Colonel Gray, what their views were with reference to the independence of this Parliament—an important subject, a great principle, worthy to be propounded by statesmen who had at heart the honour and the character of the Parliament of which they were members. But, Sir, how has that declaration of principle been maintained? They maintained that Parliament, to be respected, must be independent; that every man in this House, to be respected, must be independent of the Crown. They maintained that the foulest wrong that the Government of the day, or the Crown, could do was to expend a single dollar of public money upon any member of the Parliament of the country. What is the result? While the hon. gentleman talks about adhesion to principle, does he not blush when he recollects—

MR. CHARLTON: Not a bit.

MR. TUPPER: If he is not incapable of blushing, I say he would blush