to $167,166,252. In eleven and three-quarter years, from 1897 to March 31, 1908, the expenditure on this account has been $162,542,277. It will be seen that we expended during our eleven and three-quarter years on that class of expenditure pretty nearly as much as our predecessors did in their eighteen years. In that respect we stand about even. If you put it on the average, we have spent much more than they did on these expenditures outside of consolidated fund. But observe that at the same time there is a marked difference in the two periods as respects the public debt. The Liberals provided more generously for the public service, as I have shown, but to a large extent they paid their way. Our Conservative friends spent large sums in expenditures of the character I spoke of, but they added them largely to the public debt. Although there was $167,000,000 of capital and special expenditure during the eighteen years of our Conservative friends, they paid but a small part from the revenue and added $118,000,000 to the public debt. Of the $162.000,000 which we have spent on this capital and special expenditure we added to the public debt only $19,000,000 and we paid out of our ordinary revenue $143,000,000, adding, as I have said, only $19,000,000 to the public debt, while they in their period added $118,000,000 to the public debt.

The hon. member for North Toronto has made a reference to the rates of interest we have been paying and to the obligations we are likely to have to assume. His remarks, to some extent, were a repetition of a statement he made outside of this House at an early period of this session. I took note of it at the time, but there did not seem to be a favourable opportunity to call his attention to it. In a speech at Hamilton, shortly after the opening of the session, I find him reported as follows in the Mail':

"They (the government) have marched up to a point where a debt of $100,000,000 must be paid in two years, and Mr. Fielding has made no provision to meet it."

My first point in reply is that my hon. friend magnified, in an enormous degree, the debt which is maturing. He does not seem to think it necessary to speak on these grave matters with that sense of responsibility which should attach to him as a former Minister of Finance. A very much less sum will have to be met within the time named. He proceeds:

"Instead he (Mr. Fielding) was paying as high as 7 per cent. to the bank of England for the use of money. The highest that he (Mr. Foster) ever paid was two and seven-eighths per cent."

That was an extraordinary statement for my hon. friend to make, if he did make it. We have not paid 7 per cent. for any money. He should be aware of that from information given in the House.

Mr. FOSTER. In the first place, I do not think I ever said that the highest I paid was 2 7-8 per cent., because I know exactly what I did pay. It is reported in the newspaper, and the newspaper does its office as best it can, but sometimes it will not get it right. The information I had was that you were paying the Bank of England rate, and the Bank of England rate at the time I spoke was 7 per cent.

Concerning Temporary Loans.

Mr. FIELDING. That might justify my hon. friend at that time, but not to-night. The information has since been given to the House that we did not pay 7 per cent. If it has escaped my hon. friend's notice, it is a pity, because I thought he was present, and the point was important. As I have said, he might have been justified in his statement then, but he would have been fairer if he had said that if we were paying 7 per cent., we paid it under an arrangement which he himself made. The