

It is easy for the Government to claim credit for an economical administration and for low estimates, when they reserve to themselves the right of making their own appropriations without the sanction or vote of this House.

They have violated not only the constitution and the law, but all the pledges which they gave and the protests which they made when in opposition.

TRUE FACTS

Before passing on to the consideration of the Accounts for the present year and of the Estimates for the coming year, I may note that the Honorable Treasurer takes credit to himself for decreases in the amounts paid for railway subsidies, and for repayments of railway guarantee deposits.

These decreases are certainly not due to any action on the part of the present Government. They are simply liabilities of the Province which have gradually run off, and which will still further decrease until finally they will disappear from the Public Accounts.

It is not in the power of the present Government to reduce them by so much as one dollar, and if they have attained their comparatively small dimensions, it is because for five years before the advent of the present Government to power, a determined and continuous effort had been made by preceding administrations from 1892 to 1897 to extinguish this liability, and it was for this purpose that the Conservative Government adopted the courageous method of imposing taxes, which, when their purpose was largely effected, they removed as far and as soon as possible.

The Honorable Treasurer will not deny that the Province has not in hands the funds to meet these subsidies and to repay these railway guarantee deposits.

The moneys borrowed for the first purpose and the moneys received from the railway companies for the second, were diverted prior to 1892 by the Government which received the moneys, to other purposes.

Adding these payments, which will of course have to be met as they are obligations of the Province, to what the Honorable Treasurer calls ordinary expenditure, we find that the total expenditure for the year just closed was \$4,885,162.48,