

in revenue, the current year's expenditure based on an estimated revenue of \$90,000,000, which will not realize more than \$80,000,000, reached the enormous sum of \$132,777,748. Notwithstanding the falling revenues of the country, yet we find rising expenditures. At the expiration of the nine months ending the 31st December last we find an increase in current expenditure over the corresponding period of the previous year of \$5,000,000, and an increase in capital expenditure over the corresponding period of last year of \$7,000,000, making a total increased expenditure up to the 31st December last of \$12,000,000, thus leaving the financial condition of the country \$23,500,000 to the worse. During the twelve months ending 31st December last we increased our public debt \$37,500,000, and from a return brought down to the House of Commons last night I observe our public debt has reached the sum of \$291,000,000. I hope I am not entering upon controversial ground, or that I am promoting the asperities of party debate if I ask hon. gentlemen to give their most sincere and earnest attention to a question involving so largely the very best interests of this Dominion. The Senate from time to time is subject to hostile criticism in the press and on the platform, and I know of no higher function that can be discharged by this Chamber than to give an earnest attention to the financial affairs and interests of this great country as administered by the government of the day. One would fancy that this Senate should act as a break upon the administrative wheel which is revolving very quickly at the present time; but parliamentary institutions made up of the Senate and Commons seem not to give the slightest attention to the encroachments which are being made from time to time by the government upon the financial revenues of the country. I suppose I might safely say that parliamentary institutions had their origin in an endeavour to resist the encroachments of the Crown upon the public revenues and upon the rights of the people. Instead of admonishing the government and resisting the incursions which are made from time to time upon the financial revenues of the country, we find both branches of parliament in every possible way assisting the government of the

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

day in extracting from the public exchequer all that they may possibly demand, though far in excess of what the country should pay. Let us analyse for a moment the expenditure of this money and consider if parliament has been doing its duty in granting supplies to the government to the extraordinary extent which is to be found in the Supply Bill particularly that of last year. We all recall how my right hon. friend and his associates previous to 1896 thundered against the alleged extravagance of the Conservative party. We recall how my right hon. friend and his associates held up their hands in holy horror at the idea of the Dominion of Canada spending in those days \$41,702,000, which was the extent of the expenditure in 1896, but compare that expenditure of 1896 with the expenditure represented by the Supply Bill of last year, nearly \$133,000,000, exclusive of the subsidies which may yet have to be paid to the railways, and which amounted to \$23,366,000. As to the analysis of this enormous sum, I have selected a few of the spending departments so that we may make a comparative analysis of the present expenditures with the expenditure of 1896 :

	1896.	1908-9
Agriculture — Quarantine ..	305,000	1,663,000
Militia .. . . . . .	1,136,000	6,749,000
Public Works .. . . . . .	1,299,000	18,794,000
Marine and Fisheries .. . . .	1,074,000	5,585,000
Mail Subsidies .. . . . . .	534,000	1,740,000
Immigration .. . . . . .	120,000	1,020,000
Totals .. . . . . .	\$4,468,000	\$35,551,000

About 800 per cent increase.

For these particular spending departments in 1896 there was an expenditure of \$4,468,000 as against \$35,551,000, or an increase of 800 per cent in the short space of twelve years. I appeal to hon. gentlemen who should divest themselves of all that sympathy and activity of political life which is from time to time urged upon us in this particular Chamber, I ask if the increase in population within the Dominion of Canada, which I am safe in saying has not exceeded 25 per cent, would warrant the government in increasing the expenditure of the particular departments to which I have alluded by at least 800 per cent. I might put it in another way : for the twelve years since the accession of my hon. friends to office, the public revenue which has been