

the influence of the Senate has not been impaired, nor the respect in which it is held in the country diminished by the course which we have seen fit to pursue. On the contrary, it has been universally recognized that the course pursued by this Senate has been beneficial to the country.

Hon. Gentlemen—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—There may be times when from circumstances the majority supporting the Government in another place may be so overwhelming that a successful enquiry into ministerial misdoings would be impossible. When there are ministerial misdoings they not only affect the Ministers themselves, but they affect the whole ministerial party, and every member of that party is interested in concealing those misdoings. Whoever knows the process by which enquiries are pursued by large committees representing the majority in the popular House, must be aware that it is impossible to get facts that will tell against the Government of the day, or the party of the Government of the day. It is just at such times that a House, constituted as this is, is peculiarly adapted to render the country great and valuable service. Other hon. gentlemen have told how this House has been sneered at and jeered at by certain gentlemen in another place, who have since become members of the Government. There allusions to this House were exceedingly improper, and were discreditable to them, speaking as they did of one of the Houses of Parliament. The course which this House has pursued in rejecting public measures which they considered prejudicial to the interests of the Dominion, and their examination into the finances of the country, have kept it in full accord with public sentiment, and its position was never higher in the estimation of the people of Canada than it is to-day.

Hon. Gentlemen—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—If this House had been an elected body, would there be any doubt as to its right and duty to enquire into the management of the finances of the country, and is not an enquiry instituted by it constituted as it is as useful as though it were an elective body? The hon. gentleman from Lambton referred to the Committees of this House

which are sitting. He expressed surprise that I should sit upon the Kaministiquia Committee to enquire into "The Neebing Hotel" and "Fort Williams land jobs!" It is very necessary to sit upon such committees and enquire into such matters. The hon. gentleman from Prince Edward Island said we should not refer to questions that are before committees. If the evidence which has been before those committees had been withheld from the public, I agree with the hon. gentleman that it would not be proper to allude to it here, but when the evidence is published every morning in the press of the country, would it not be affectation not to refer to it in this House when occasion requires.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE—What I said my objection to be was allusions to enquiries pending before committees, and unfinished.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—There is not a member of this House, and scarcely any person in the country, who does not know, from what has already transpired, that in the Kaministiquia land matter and the Neebing Hotel purchase, gross frauds have been perpetrated upon the public.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—On the contrary, I do not think it is anything of the kind.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—A most nefarious job has been perpetrated on the country.

Hon. Mr. HOPE—Is that what the Committee have decided on?

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—The Committee has not reported yet, but the fact that a fraud has been perpetrated is patent; I do not say by whom; that will be for the Committee and the House to say. The hon. gentleman from Lambton spoke of the Government having inherited obligations from their predecessors amounting to \$96,300,000. Without explanation this statement is grossly misleading; \$35,000,000 of that sum were for debentures maturing, which had simply to be renewed, and at a reduced rate of interest. Then with respect to the largest obligation, which they say they inherited—the Pacific Railway,—it is a matter of history that when they succeeded to the Government of this country they were perfectly