OTTAWA, May 12.-Now that the session is drawing to a close there is a disposition to review the proce It has been rather a barren year so far as original legislation goes, but it has laid the ground work of some large expenditures in the future. While the government has introduced only two important measures, and is not carrying these through the house, a large number of small bills, some thirty or forty in all, have been brought for-ward by ministers. Nearly all have come within in the last two or three weeks and are hurried through without much consideration. The session wil be delayed a day or two beyond the expected time, for the reason that private members refuse to allow every thing to be rushed through withou consideration and discussion. In the leader of the opposition the country has a vigilant and thoughtful mem ber, who is anxious that no legislation is adopted without some certainty that it can be worked and that it is safe.

Mr. Borden has strengthened his po sition this session by his careful and thorough examination of legislation and by his courteous and dignified manner of discussing public question There is nothing small or provincial about him, and his broad outlook and clear habits of thought have given his opinions very great weight in the house on both sides. Nearly every routine measure has been more or less modified to meet his objections or sug-gestions, though of course a good many are left in an unsatisfactory condition. Mr. Borden is honored and admired by his own supporters, and while the feeling of comradeship between himself and the other opposition members has increased he has gained in popularity on the other side he has on his own. Peras much as haps it would be safe to say that he is the most popular member in the cham

At the same time there is a general feeling on the opposition side that Mr. Foster must, if possible, be induced to return to active political life. Mr. Bor den is accepted cheerfully as the leader and he does all the work and more than a leader pught to do. But there is a limitation to one man's powers, and the opposition leader in the commons has never yet been forced to the position of chief financial critic When Sir John Macdonald led the opposition Sir Charles Tupper had charge of the financial criticism. When Mr. Blake, Mr. Mackenzie and Sir Wilfrid Laurier led the opposition, Sir Richard Cartwright discussed the budget and led off in criticism of the supply bill. Mr. Foster had this duty during the last parliament, and performed it most effectively. None of the members who were defeated at the last election have been missed so much as he. This is no flection upon Sir Charles Tupper whose strong position in parliamentand in the country is undisputed, and whose leadership was enthusiastically supported. But Sir Charles was an old-man who must soon have withdrawn in any case, and his place is occupied by a successful leader and one in whom Sir Charles himself has implicit

Mr. Foster's place has not been filled and this fact has become more evident during the last month while the protectionist speeches, though he says house was in supply than it was in the early part of the session. Mr. Borden himself replied to the budget speech, which was a duty that should not have been imposed upon him, but was admirably performed. Mr. Osler, Mr. Kemp, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Henderson Mr. Bell, and a number of others, are well acquainted with financial matters, but no one of them would think of placing himself in Mr. Foster's shoes and taking the work of chief financial critic. At every stage of the game there is an appeal to the financial history of the country, a discussion of precedents and of principles and a demand for thorough knowledge of departmental work. Mr. Haggart is the only member of the opposition who has had experience as the head of a department, and he does not set out to be a financial authority. Mr. Tisdale was a minister but only a few months, and Mr. Costigan is now a supporter of the government, and besides takes no part in public discussion. He is like Sir Richard Cartwright, a looker on at the game.

The Ontario members of the oposi tion comprise about two-thirds of the party in the house. They are practiunanimous in desiring the return of Mr. Foster to Ottawa as an Ontario member. Much as the lower provinces may regret the loss of so important a leader, it is probable that they will have to submit to it. Meanwhile Mr. Foster himself is giving his attention to private affairs and if is understood that he would like to remain out of public life for some time longer. Practically the whole of the five year from the time he left Ottawa until last year were given to public duties. He is now presiding over an important private financial corporation, yet he finds time to respond to each demand of his party, and of societies throughout the country, and delivers an important speech every few days in some part of Canada. hardly be expected that he will be able to resist the demands that must be made upon him during the next few years to resume his position as chief financial critic of the opposition in the house of commons. Mr. Borden and Foster, supported as they are by a body of able men from all parts of the dominion, will make a great team and they should be ready to work together next session, which will un-doubtedly be the most important session of this parliament.

OTTAWA, May 13.-The discussion of preferential trade and the duty of the premier at the coming conference the premier at the coming conference did not elicit from Sir Wilfrid any definite statement. Mr. Borden set forth clearly and emphatically what he conceived to be the duty of the premier in the circumstances and strong ly insisted that parliament ought to know where the government stood in the matter. It seems to be difficult to impress upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier the fact that se head of the chief out lying portion of the empire he ought to take a leading part in the deliber-ations at London. Sir Wilfrid rather

express an opinion on the subjects that arise. He will hear what Australia and New Zealand or the home government have to offer concerning the defences of the empire and then he will dissent from anything like militarism. He will hear what may be propounded in regard to the closer political union of the empire and will raise his voice against any change in the political relations. He will listen the proposition which he avereges to to the proposition which he expects to hear from Mr. Chamberlain concerning preferential trade and will then have his say with the other colonial delegates.

All this is unsatisfying to those who consider Canada a most important portion of the empire. Mr. Borden thinks that Sir Wilfrid places Canada on too low a plane. Why can he not go to London with a policy of his own and appear there as a leader instead of a critic. If he does not approve of the Australian idea about defence, why is he not prepared to propound some plan of his own? On the subject of preferential trade, which he claims to have very much at heart, one would expect him to go to London with a well prepared policy of his own and the intention to carry through if it can be done. It looks as if Sir Wilfrid was going to commit the same error that he committed five years ago. He went to London then and advocated preferential trade. When he got there he fell into the hands of the Cobden Club people and became an opponent of preferential trade. The advice he gave there was not to give Canada preference, though he had left Camada promising to give the empire the contrary advice. He He is not clearer in his views now than he was then, and no human being who knows the premier can guess within a mile what position he will take when he meets the other members of the

Sir Wilfrid argued yesterday that the work was easier now than five years ago. The British government, which he advised to adhere to free trade and not to tax food, has departed from free trade and is taxing food This departure, according to Sir Wilfrid, has made it possible to give Canada a preference which was impossible in 1897; that is to say that the rejection of Sir Wilfrid's advice has given Canada a chance. If he will only refrain from giving advice this year of the same character, Canada will be in-debted to him, but if he gives advice, the best that can be hoped is that it will be better than he gave before, or that the British government will again reject it. It would appear from Sir Wilfrid's own statement that the Britsh chancellor is a much better friend to Canada than our premier, since according to the premier's own state-ment, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has made a preferential trade possible by electing Sir Wilfrid's advice.

We shall see later what success Mr Borden will have in urging upon the premier a suitable resolution. Sir Wilfrid has promised to consult with him and to arrange a resolution which all nembers can support. Some amusement was produced by a speech from Mr. Ross, the veteran liberal from Nova Scotia who supports the minis try, but has doubts about Mr. Tarte. Mr. Ross is grieved over Mr. Tarte's that when he considers the horrible pit and miry clay from which Mr. Tarte partly extricated himself he is surprised that he is no worse than he is. Recalling from a political memory that goes back to the ante-confederate campaign the plea of Mr. Howe that he should not be held responsible for a famous speech in favor of confederation because it was made after dinner, Mr. Ross is willing to overlool Mr. Tarte's barquet speech in Montreal. Yet with true Presbyterian feryor he begs him to "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees." As Mr. Charlton has gone over to protectio and sits on the next seat to Mr. Ross, it is thought there is some suggestion pertaining to the member for Norfolk in Mr. Ross' warning. On two or three occasions Mr. Charlton and Mr. Ross have come into collision and the venerable Nova Scotian no doubt remembers the confession made by Mr Charlton himself the other day that ne was in favor of protection when he was attacking it. The leaven of the Pharisees is hypocrisy.
We are paying some \$80,000 for the

introduction of the Marconi system, largely upon the ground that it will be useful over the short distances round our eastern coast lines. But at the same time Mr. Tarte is asking for \$70,-000 to make cable connection around Belleisle, between Anticosti and the Magdalen Islands, from Mabou to Hawkesbury, from Louisburg to Scatari Island and other short connections. Mr. Borden vants to know what this means. If the Marconi system is going to be useful for these communications why are we spending money for the short cables, and if it is neces to keep up these ables and build new ones, what is the point of the Marconi

investment? There is a charming candor in Mr. Tarte's reply. He has up faith in the Marconi system. He thinks perhaps some time it may be useful and that wireless methods on a clear day may be equal to the transmission of a mess age or two. But he laughs at the idea of establishing them as a regular telegraph connection for commercial purposes. When one comes to think of it it is a little singular that after waiting till now for the establishment of Mr. Tarte's cables and having invested so heavily in Marconi's experiment the country could not wait another year or two to see how the Marconi system would work. There is an impression that Mr. Tarte threw an avalanche of cold water on the Marconi project when he came home, though it was then too late to stop it. He is reported to have told Mr. Marconi that his company ought to be paying money to Canada for its privileges instead of

Mr. Tarte has large ambitions about telegraphing. He has now nearly 7,000 miles of telegraph, including 2,000 in the Yukon. He says that he has got connections with all the cables on the east coast and is going to carry his lines into Montreal. If the country penditure

getting money from Canada.

La Patrie has made it clear that this of Mr. Mulock. Mr. Tarte will h it himself if it comes at all. Mean-while he calmly observes that the 4,000 miles of government telegraph outside of the Yukon cost \$60,000 a year for operation and earns \$16,000.

Mr. Tarte is not very explicit about his creosote works. He is taking a vote of \$40,000, and rather thinks that it will be enough, but he does not know where the works will be established or when, nor has he any details as to the kinds of work they

Mr. Blair's Intercolonial estimates on capital account passed last night amounted to \$1,285,000. This is a supplementary estimate and is additional to the amount first brought down in the main estimates. This only means that the minister was a million and a quarter dollars out in his original estimate. To show how uncertain these estimates are it may be mentioned that last year Mr. Blair took a vote of \$2,000,000 for rolling stock to be expended in the current year which will end next month. About two weeks ago he concluded that this was not money enough, and a vote of \$75,000 was added to it. In less than ten days after this vote was taken the estima the year beginning next July were prought down, asking for a revote of \$303,000, which means that this amount voted for the current year will not be used. So we have the minister concluding that he is \$75,000 short and then within a few days afterwards admiting that he asked for \$300,000 more than he could spend.

Old parliamentarians say that they have never seen anybody who mixes and muddles his estimates like the minister of railways. It is absolutely impossible to find out from him what any service is going to cost, or what it has cost. Some portion of the in formation is always missing, and though the minister promises to bring it later, it never gets there. It used to be thought that Mr. Blair was deliberately pretending to ignorance. out the impression is growing that he really does not know the details of his department. He orders things to be ione without much consideration and oses all knowledge of particulars. The men who seem to manage the Interco-lonial are not the officers on the line nor the officers here, but the contractors, suppliers and promoters. carry on their operations naturally without consulting each other and are supported by the haphazard action of a minister who does not exactly know what he is trying to do. Mr. Tarte is different. He has his own schemes and his own schemers, but he keeps a firm grasp on the situation. The contractors are his men; he is not

Replying to questions Mr. Blair stated last night that the total expenditure now made or provided for in con nection with St. John terminal works was \$2,500,000 and for Halifax terminals \$2,000,000. When one understand the feeling of members of parliament on both sides of he house there is n difficulty in explaining why George Robertson cannot get a larger vote for the dry dock, and why it is impossible to get dredging done at the entrance of St. John harbor and assistance towards the facilities on the west side. The moment any such thing is | how mentioned a finger is pointed to this and cigars for Mr. Tarte's officers two and a half millions, which a and employes in the Yukon. He poinstranger naturally supposes to be applicable to winter port purposes. one explains that the wirter port business of St. John is not done where this \$2,500,000 is expended, and that the outlay is of no appreciable service in that connection, the reply is that the money ought to have been applied to the proper purpose and in the proper pla The Ontario members think that public opinion in St. John supports the expenditure of these millions where they have gone. They consider that if the money has been properly spent it ought to provide for a large export business. If it has been improperly spent the fault does not lie with parliament as a whole or with the mini ters from other provinces. The matter has been in charge of a minister from New Brunswick and a representative from St. John. It will be pretty difficult for Mr. Blair to persuade his colleagues in the government and his supporters in parliament that all this money is not useful for the general export business. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, May 14 .- Mr. Borden's motion in amendment to supply was supported in a clear and comp sive speech and brought out a reply in Mr. Fielding's best hurrah style. S convincing were the arguments of the opposition leader that the whole conservative party in the house voted with him and so reassuring was the reply to Mr. Fielding that secured the votes of all the members on his side of house. Nevertheless the statement con-tained in Mr. Borden's motion would probably be endorsed by nine-tenths of the people of the country, and even the other tenth would accept it all but half a dozen words. The following is the language of the amendm which sets forth very clearly the financial history of the last five years :

"That the total expenditure during easi fiscal year, from 1892 to 1901, both inclusive was as follows: was as 10110ws:
1892. ...\$42,272,136 1893. ...\$40,853,72
1894. 43,008,834 1895. 42,872,38
1896. 41,702,383 1897. 42,972,75
1898. 43,334,281 1899. 51,542,63
1900. 52,717,467 1901. 57,982,86

It is not right that Mr. Border should be obliged to take the lead in must be admitted that he does that work well. He began his speech yes frenzied attacks which Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Mulock, Mr. Paterson tomed to make a few years ago con cerning the public expenditure of \$36,000,000. Sir Richard interrupted Mr Borden by saying it was \$38,000,000, and Mr. Borden good naturedly accepted the statement. There was no necessity for his doing so, because the expenditure in 1896 was less than \$37,000,000. But Mr. Borden was pleased to find Sir Richard so interested in the figures. Did the minister of trade and commerce, he asked, know that the current expenditure for this year was \$51,000,000, plus \$14,000,000 odd charged to capital? Did he know that the taxation had increased by over \$10,000, 000, and the expenditure by \$15,000,000, and the fact that Mr. Fielding is asking for \$67,000,000 for the year now about to commence?

As Sir Richard Cartwright ecemed to be merry over the matter, Mr. Borden reminded him that he used to describe a minister who had relatives in the civil service as a bashaw of two or three tails. Mr. Borden did not know many tailed bashaw Sir Richard had now come to be, as he had lest the count of his relatives that had been appointed. Sir Richard's memory was good and with the assistance of pater nal affection he might be able to claim the proper oriental recognition. At the same time, Sir Richard had become a philosopher and a maker of new phrases. What was formerly a scandalous waste was now a generous appropriation. What was formerly money wrung from the people by odious taxes, was now money belonging to the government, which the ministers were pleased to bestow on grateful country. It was delightful to see this pleasing change come over these formerly anxious and perturbed spirits now so contented and philoso phical. Once we heard that the farm ers were bled white; now they are paying about 50 per cent more taxes, and Mr. Borden wanted to know what their present color was. Another mem ber interrupted by suggesting that they were green, but Mr. Borden thought they were hardly green enough to allow this state of affairs to go of much longer.

Mr. Fielding interrupted by saying the farmers were never so prosperous as they are now. "This is doubtles ecause you take ten million dollars a ear more out of them," sail Mr. Borden, who thereupon proceeded to read from the Ottawa platform Mr. Fielding's resolution in which he "viewed with alarm" the taxes of that time He had increased these taxes 50 per cent, and now gave no sign of fear. He added to the expenditure \$15,000, 000, and proposed to add several milns more next year.

And then Mr. Borden went a little into particulars, contending that the additional expenditure was largely waste and loss. As a sample of gov ernment methods Mr. Borden showed the country was paying for wines ted out that high officials in that country were receiving generous salaries, had in addition their house rent paid, living expenses provided, and vet demanded and received the personal services of men and women in government pay. When the matter is prought up in the house Mr. Tart says that the department of justice ordered these things to be done and he had nothing to do with it. When the department of justice is asked about it, the minister says that his predecessor is responsible. It is imssible to find out who is responsible for these things, but the people pay for them. We send an officer to build telegraphs in the Yukon and we find his staff becoming contractors with the government, making a profit for themselves at the expense of the country. Another day it is discovered that a contractor is receivdredging at the

though parliament has not authorized the expenditure though the minister says he is not in favor of it and does not believe in it, and though his deputy orders it to be stopped Nevertheless the contractor goes on, and the government cheerfully brings in a bill to pay him \$30,000 or \$40,000 or \$50,000 for a season, though the world he does is not only useless but is really an impediment to navigation. Another day we discover that a contract for thirty miles of railway in Prince Edward Island has been given to a con tractor on tenders received for another contract. Afterwards it is learned that he commenced the work contrary to orders from the department. Min isters of the crown denied that he was at work, long after he had begun and the deputy minister seemed to have ordered him to stop while he was claiming authority from the minister to go on. In Nova Scotia we hear of money expended to admit boats into a lake, and the affair is done so recklessly that the lake is all drained out dry to the Atlantic ocean.

Mr. Fielding contradicted this last charge and a lively little controversy occurred, in which Mr. Borden pressed for a distinct contradiction of th sed for a distinct country did not get drained lake episode and did not get it. Mr. Fielding contented himself with the statement that the officers of the crown had declared that the charges in regard to Nova Scotia public works were inaccurate in nine duced to elucidate the tenth case.

Mr. Borden went on to say that in the last days of the session nearly all the principal estimates were brought in and millions of money were voted every day with only 40 or 50 members resent, and all the ministers absent out two or three, of whom all but one



vote in a few hours no less than two hundred and forty estimates for harbors and rivers alone.

It is useless, according to Mr. Borden, for the ministers to hold the opposition responsible for this reckless manner of doing business. It is vain for them to say that the opposition do not object to the vote for money in de tail. Sir Richard and his supporters year after year condemned the exof the late government without trying to vote any of them down. Mr. Borden showed that for even or eight years in succession no vote was taken on any estimate of the late government and that in no year were more than two or three items contested.

Mr. Fielding himself admits that this s an era of exceptional prosperity and that it cannot last. Yet he is expending all the money he can raise, has borrowed \$16,000,000 within the last few years, and is now seeking power to borrow \$15,000,000 more.

This is not the time for such a profligacy, and Mr. Borden thinks that the treasury will be in a poor position to meet straitened circumstances when the change which Mr. Fielding predicts shall come. Mr. Fielding is not reasury, according to the opposition leader. As a watchdog he re-minds Mr. Borden of the mastiff derecribed by an American humorist. This man got a dog to watch his goods, but when the critical moment came and the burglars entered the house and were discovered by the policemen, the dog was found on the wrong side. He had established a comradeship with the burglars and took the policeman by the throat. That is what happened in the public accounts committee Mr. Fielding and his friends were found always defending the perpetrators of wrong, preventing exposure and detection, and so far as they could, shoking off those who were trying to secure an enquiry into public expend-

Mr. Fielding replied in an impetuous and rapid speech. He poured out words at the rate of 200 per minute, leclaring that if various things were taken out of the account the expenditure now was no greater than it used to be. If there were no Yukon and no Intercolonial railway, and no post offices and no several other things, the gone on strike and refused to take government would not be obliged to spend any more money than Mr. Foster spent. He claimed that the increased expenditure was no larger proportionately than the increased trade of the country, thus leaving it to be understood that the government was bearing the expense of all the trade and traffic of the land. Also he insisted that the taxes were lighter than they used to be, so that the public may suppose that the additional ten millions collected is a voluntary contribution. It was a cheerful oration with not a word of "view with alarm" in it, and was followed by a speech of Mr. Tarte that was still more guine.

But Mr. Tarte is in a little better position than Mr. Fielding. He says that he never denounced the expenditures of the late government. He was a conservative and supported them, and he still thinks that Sir Richard Cartwright and his friends were all grong in their criticisms. Ministers sat, as Disraeli would sav. like a row of extinct volcanoes while their colleagues told them how petty and niserable and contentious they used to be; and how the opposition of this day was very much what the liberals wer when he opposed them. Mr. Tarte's rgument went to show that while he might be accused of inconsistency in belonging first to one party and then to another, he was at least consisten in always supporting all the expenditure there was.

But Mr. Tarte is not much of a supporter of the Mackenzie and Mann enterprises and he seemed to rather enjoy the criticism which came later on the vote for \$327,000 to these gentlemen for their alleged loss on the Yukon railway contract which parliament refused to ratify after they had got to work on it. Mr. Tarte did not make that contract. Neither for that matter did Mr. Blair. It was Mr. Sifton's job, first and last, and the in demnity is his job too. When Mr. Sifton made his contract and kindly gave his friends 4,000,000 acres of Yukon gold lands, to be chosen by themselve Mr. Blair was out of the country. At first the minister of railways declined to defend the operation, and when he did try to carry it through, he did it in a most unsatisfactory way. In yesterday's duscussion Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Sifton both claimed that it was a great misfortune to have the enterprise stopped and that the torie were much to blame for doing it. But Mr Blair never said it. It is a matte of history that the government had a hard job to get the supporters in the house to vote the me and that many government supporters who did vote for it went to them friends in the senate and begged them to vote against it.

Outside of parliament no one pre tends to defend this contract now. were usually asleep. Within ten days of the end of the session a twenty page volume of estimates is brought minister to give such a good land The government has control of the

down and the house is expected to sidy to any company to build this road today. If Mr. Sifton and the premier were sincere in saving that the rejection of that contract had been a loss to the country they would now provide a railroad and give the grants. But they know this would cause a rebellion in the Yukon, and they know also hat such a bill could not be forced through either house of parliament. The whole scheme is absolutely discredited and scouted and when a minister expresses regret that it did not go through, his own supporters simply laugh at him. No doubt Mr. Sifton is sincere in his regret, because the transaction would have made a great fortune for somebody, and Mr. Sifton has reason to rejoice over the prosperity of his friends who do business with the interior department.

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Mackenzie and Mann could not collect a dollar of damages by law. They had a contract subject to the ratification of parliament which was no good at all without ratification. Then went on and spent money without any legal remedy, but no doubt they had assurances that the government would see them through, and no one accuses them of doing wrong in seeking their money back. The men who ought to pay it are the ministers themselves. and especially Mr. Sifton, who is proa very successful watchdog of the bably by this time well able to do so. The country never was committed to any payment except so far as ministers without authority committed it.

> There was duplicity in the way the item was brought down. The house was asked to vote "the amount of the judgment of the exchequer court in favor of Mackenzie and Mann.' Now there was never such a judgment obtained, and evidently it was the intention of the minister to deceive the house. Coming down to the last working day of the session but one, the item stood to pass without much enquiry. When it was read Mr. Blair was asked if there was a judgment of the exchequer court, and if the case was argued there. For some minutes the ministers consulted and no answer could be obtained. Finally Mr. Blair said there was a hearing in the exchequer court. After a period of consultation, which lasted so long that members began to wonder what was coming. Sir Wilfrid Laurier took the floor. It was not his department at all, but it seems that Mr. Blair had Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave history several years pld, but when he came down to recent times he showed that the statement in the estimates was a deliberate falsehood and that the statute would have contained a lie if it had passed as it stood. After the whole matter had been explained and discussed for some hours. Mr. Casgrain practically took the government by the throat and told the ministers that they would not be allowed to enact this falsehood, the item was changed to correspond with the fact.

The facts are, that Mackenzie and Mann having no legal claim, but having the promise of Mr. Sifton that they would be recouped, were promised repayment by the government. The ministers admitted liability for the total amount expended by the contractors. They consented also to pay interest on this amount; they also paid 15 per cent additional, amounting to \$58,000, as a reward for Mackenzie & Mann's trouble. The minister went through the form of sending out an accountant, who reduced the claim by something less than a thousand dollars, which the contractors promptly accepted. Then Judge Burbidge was asked to make a "judicial audit," as Sir Wilfrid called it, and as the figures were all right, he allowed the whole thing that had been previously agreed upon. After having agreed to pay the whole amount, and having referred it for audit to the judge, the government falsely stated in the estimates that the amount was required to pay "a judg-ment of the exchequer court." It was easy for Mr. Casgrain to show that there was no judgment, and that the exchequer court as such had nothing to do with the matter. Mr. Blair pleaded that there was really no difference between the judgment and an audit. Mr. Fielding agreed to change the word on the ground that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, which is to say that the government having decided to pay this amount to Mackenzie & Mann, were willing to get it any way they could. Apparently they preferred to get it by enacting a falsehood.

However the the thing smells, there is some difference between a judgment and this conclusion. A judgment would be a thing that the government would have to pay whether it wanted to or not. This bill is a thing which the government wanted to pay whether it had to or not. S. D. S.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.



WILLIMANTIC, Me. May 18.—By the over turning of a canoe on Wilson stream today, Edward Chute, aged 30 years, lost his life.