

administer them in a careful and economical manner, as well as their management of other important matters with which they have had to deal, are appreciated by the people, I may be permitted to refer to the elections which have taken place to fill vacancies in the Government since the last Session of the Legislature about a year ago.

When I was called upon by the leader of the Government to occupy the responsible position of Treasurer of this Province, I accepted the position feeling confident that the administration of the affairs of the Province by his Government had been such as would secure from the constituency which I have the honor to represent in the Legislature, their approval of my action in accepting office in the Government.

Having been elected as a supporter of the general policy of the Government at the general elections only a few months before, I felt free to give them a hearty support in all their measures, with the exception of the first Northern Pacific contract. But although I did not agree with them on that, I could endorse the second contract which I believe has resulted in largely benefiting the Province notwithstanding the fact that the line is not yet completed; and I believe that the terms of that contract will compare most favorably with the conditions upon which like railway facilities have been secured by any Province in the Dominion of Canada. That I was justified in the expectation that my course in the Legislature would be approved and the policy of the Government sustained, was fully established, when, upon accepting office and appealing to my constituents for their approval of my action, I was returned by the largest constituency, the premier constituency of the Province, by acclamation.

The result of the second test of the policy of the Government was equally satisfactory in the return of the Hon. Provincial Secretary, also by acclamation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in submitting the estimates for the current year to the consideration of the members, I do so with the fullest confidence that these estimates will meet with the approval of the House, and I base this confidence not only upon the satisfactory character of the estimates themselves, but upon the assurance which this House now has, that these estimates can be relied upon as representing the actual