

No. 5.

INFORMATION FOR THE ELECTORS.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

Perhaps no one aspect of administration has been more persistently misrepresented in late years by the Opposition than the public expenditure. It is an easy matter to make assertions, to distort facts, to magnify figures, and the vicious habit seems to have grown upon Liberal writers and speakers until it has become a sort of second nature with them. We propose, however, to deal with the important subject of the expenditure not in the terms of stump oratory, but in a plain matter-of-fact way, taking the figures from the official records, and setting them forth without gloss or subterfuge, so that an intelligent appreciation of the exact position of the finances may be formed.

In the first place, then, it obviously gives no clue to the real state of things to say that fifteen or twenty years ago the total expenditure was twenty-five million dollars, whereas it is now thirty-five millions. We must also know for what purposes and to what advantage the additional money is spent. There are hundreds of merchants in Canada who to-day are paying out for salaries, rents and other expenses two or three times as much as they paid for like services twelve or fifteen years ago; yet no