

tion. I have been told that the number of extra clerks employed this year in the departments and in the House of Commons, exceeds that of any preceding year. I think every hon. gentleman must be aware that fewer returns have been brought down this Session than usual. Perhaps the elections may have something to do with the employment of extra clerks.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—More returns have been brought down this year than in any preceding Session during the past five years.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Not to this House. I wish I could induce the Government to realize the necessity there is for economy, and the burden that taxation is becoming to the people, who are poorer than ever they were before. They are making less money, and they are less able to pay taxes, while they are called upon to contribute more revenue than they ever were before.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman has certainly drawn up a long bill of indictment against the Administration. The first charge is that we have been guilty of spending a large amount of money on the present Session, and of having protracted the meeting of Parliament. I confess the Session has been a protracted one, but that has been against the desire of the Government. It is very well known that comparatively few bills were intended to be introduced, because it was not considered that there was necessity for much legislation; but it is notorious and cannot be contradicted that the policy of the Opposition during the present Session has been to debate all manner of subjects for the purpose of getting various matters before the public. Day after day the Government were delayed and prevented from bringing in their measures. The Bill which comes up to us to-day has been before the House of Commons for two months.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—It is always the case.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; he cannot point out a solitary instance where a Supply Bill

*Hon. Mr. Macpherson.*

has been so long before the House. It is notorious that the desire of every Administration is to shorten the Session. It was never calculated that this meeting of Parliament would last more than seven or eight weeks. The Government were powerless to shorten it. Committees of enquiry were struck to investigate charges made against the Administration. It would have been improper for the Government to have refused those committees an opportunity to bring home their charges. They were given all the facilities they required to prosecute their investigations, but they were unable to establish their charges. The hon. gentleman says the trade of the country is terribly depressed, and he says the Government have done nothing to relieve this depression. Does the hon. gentleman mean to tell me that we can by Act of Parliament, and by increasing the taxation of the people, add to the wealth of the country? Even if by such a policy we could add to the manufacturing industries of the country, we would have to raise a certain amount of revenue from some other source. The hon. gentleman has got some visionary notion there is a policy which none of us have been able to discover yet, by which the prosperity of the country can be restored: whether it is to tax wheat, or coal, or salt, or the various woollen or cotton goods that every family must use, the hon. gentleman fails to tell us. The hon. gentleman is a great patriot. He advanced ten to fifteen thousand dollars when the Government wished to buy land for the Post Office in Toronto. He actually trusted the Government for that amount; and yet when he sees, as he says, this country going down day by day he will not disclose this great policy which is to relieve the country, not even in this pamphlet which he has scattered broadcast over the country. He has failed to tell us where this grand panacea is, where we are to get prosperity and come up to the plane where the Dominion was before the misfortune fell upon it by the change of Government in 1873. I do not think the hon. gentleman has come up to the patriotic point which the country has a right to expect from him. The hon. gentleman never gets up that he does not advise the Ministers of the Crown how they are to conduct the business of their offices