

receipt of his regular salary as Minister of Justice.

THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

The public expenditure of the Tory Government began with \$13,486,092 a year, and it ended with \$33,316,316 a year. The period of inflation which began with 1871 was mistaken by the Government for healthy and substantial prosperity, and though gravely warned by Sir Alexander Galt, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Mackenzie and others, they rushed the country headlong into engagements which defied even a period of inflation to meet.

In the last financial year the expenditure was increased by over four millions of dollars—six millions more than for the previous year, and ten millions more than for the first year of Confederation.

The net national debt was increased in the seven years by \$32,596,324, and new obligations and engagements for canals, railways, &c., were entered into—for which no provision was made—that if carried out in their entirety would swell the debt by \$96,000,000 more, or say a charge on the public revenue of nearly five millions a year.

WHAT THEY FAILED TO DO.

And having done all these things, they left undone many things which the interests of the Dominion really demanded.

They failed to carry an Election Law.

They failed to carry a Supreme Court Act.

They opposed election trials by the Courts.

They opposed simultaneous elections.

They voted down vote by ballot.

They gerrymandered the constituencies.

AND THESE ARE FACTS OF HISTORY.

THE RULE OF THE REFORM PARTY.

The Reform party entered office at an inopportune time for themselves, but at a fortunate time for the country. The depression in trade had just set in with our American neighbors, and the financial engagements of the Tory Government were just beginning to bear fruit. Had the downfall of Sir John A. Macdonald been deferred two or three years the results of their policy would have fully matured, the resources of the country would have been enormously taxed to meet the obligations to which the Tory Government had committed it, and the responsibility for the increase in yearly expenditure would unhesitatingly be fixed where it properly belongs.

THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AGAIN.

Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues were sworn into office on 7th November, 1873. The moneys voted by Parliament for defraying the expenses of the public service for

\$80,000. Other works under contract before that date, and for which votes had been taken by the Macdonald Government in 1873, have cost up to 30th June, 1877, the sum of \$24,361,920, or within half a million of the entire increase of the national debt under Mr. Mackenzie's Administration.

The increase of yearly expenditure imposed by this addition to the national debt is: for interest on borrowed money, \$1,072,791, and for additional payment to public debt sinking fund, \$314,453. To these sums add \$155,528 for extinction of Indian titles in the North-west; \$106,560 for expenses of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal; \$111,085 for inspection of Weights and Measures; \$318,041 for increase in postal service; and about \$300,000 for the salaries of new officers appointed in the dying days of Sir John's administration, and the increase of the salaries of old friends—and we have a total of nearly \$2,300,000 unavoidably added to the expenditure.

But by a system of wise economy the Government have met all engagements honorably, and at the end of three years the total increase has been only \$202,975.

Under the head of Ordinary Expenditure, which is the most easily controllable, they have cut down expenses by \$1,488,998. Sir John increased expenses under this head at an average of \$782,296 a year: Mr. Mackenzie has decreased them at an average of \$496,332 a year.

The rate of interest paid on the public debt when the Reformers took office was \$5.37 on the \$100: it is now only \$4.64, and the total saving of interest thus effected on our public debt is \$651,700 a year.

LEGISLATIVE REFORMS.

Mr. Mackenzie's Government have given us a general elections law, a law for the trial of controverted elections by the Courts, vote by ballot, a Supreme Court, laws which give the working man the same rights as his employer, which repress betting and pool-selling, which make it criminal to carry revolvers and other lethal weapons, besides legislation on a variety of other subjects closely affecting the physical and moral well-being of the community—not forgetting the Scott Temperance Act, which puts prohibition of the liquor traffic in the hands of the people.

SPECIMEN ECONOMIES.

In 1873-4 the Tory Government paid for the management of public works \$2,249,213: In 1876-7, with 572 miles more of railway to operate, the Reform Government paid only \$2,353,681.

In 1873-4 it cost \$3,200 per mile to run the public railways in the Lower Provinces: In 1876-7 it cost only \$2,075 per mile.

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