

it will not be very difficult to show the utter groundlessness of the hon. gentleman's got-up case against the present Government. One great fallacy—shall I call it a fallacy or a wicked misrepresentation?—underlies all the financial calculations and accusations of the hon. gentleman. His entire fabric rests on the pretence that Sir John A. Macdonald's Government was responsible for the expenditure of the country only up to 30th June, 1873, and that the present Government are responsible from that date. But what are the facts? Why that Sir John Macdonald's Government was in office until November, 1873,—that in April, 1873, his Government proposed and carried the Supply Bill for the entire financial year commencing 1st July, 1873, and ending on 30th June, 1874—that the Mackenzie Government took office late in that year, and had no choice but to carry out the programme framed by their predecessors and adopted by Parliament; and that before the elections were over and Parliament could be called again, the financial year was near its close. The pretence that the present Government is responsible for the expenditure of 1873-4 is so preposterous and mendacious that it is amazing any sane person could be found to set it up for a moment. Why, then, is the hon. gentleman so daring as to do this, and to cling to it, and re-assert it, in defiance of common sense? Why, simply because the Legislative and Executive action in 1873-4 caused a complete revolution in the financial affairs of the Dominion. The Macdonald Government in that year capped the climax of its reckless administration, and the country has ever since been weighed down by the pressure of the enormous responsibilities it left as a legacy to its successors. The Macdonald Government was formed in 1867 and controlled the public finances until 30th June, 1874; let us see then how the annual public expenditures increased in their hands. They were:—

In 1867-8.....	\$13,486,092
In 1868-9.....	14,038,084
In 1869-70.....	14,315,509
In 1870-71.....	15,623,981
In 1871-2.....	17,589,468
In 1872-3.....	19,174,647 and
In 1873-4.....	23,316,316

It will thus be seen, that in the four years from 1867-8 to 1870-1 the annual expenditure rose two millions of dollars; that in the succeeding two years it rose three millions and a half more; but that in the next succeeding year—that of 1873-4, which the hon. Senator (Mr. Macpherson) so indecently seeks to fasten on the present Government—the annual expenditure went up at one jump the enormous additional sum of \$3,768,300. And to show clearly how this vast increase arose, and how entirely the late Government were responsible for it, I have taken from the Public Accounts, comparative lists of each item of expenditure in the years 1872-3 and 1873-4 respectively, and will now read them:—