

Mr. WHITE: On consolidated fund account, \$5,000,000 less than that of the preceding year. As to capital expenditure—because there is capital expenditure in the Department of Public Works and in the Department of Railways as well as consolidated fund expenditure—for the nine months period of 1906-7 the expenditure on capital account under the late Administration was \$11,000,000. 1907-8 was the year of the financial stringency, and the only one in respect of which a comparison may be made with the present period so far as the question of the reduction of expenditure is concerned. For the year 1907-8 the capital expenditure had grown to \$30,000,000, almost double what it would have been during the preceding fiscal year had that year been a period of twelve months. It is no wonder that in 1909 my predecessor insisted on cutting down the Estimates, because for the fiscal year 1908-9 his expenditure on capital account had grown from \$11,000,000 three years previously, from \$14,000,000 two years previously and from \$30,000,000 one year previously, to the colossal sum of \$42,000,000. I wish to point out to my hon. friend that during the fourteen months of which the fiscal year 1907-8 was a portion and during the remainder of the calendar year 1908, my predecessor borrowed on the London market no less a sum than \$110,000,000. I may hold the record as a war borrower, but my predecessor holds the blue ribbon among finance ministers as a peace borrower.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Will the Finance Minister state the purposes for which his predecessor borrowed that money?

EXTRAVAGANCE MADE IT NECESSARY.

Mr. WHITE: He borrowed it to meet the consequences of the extravagance to which I have referred. He borrowed it because the late Government, instead of being able to build the National Transcontinental railway for \$13,000,000 as estimated by my right hon. friend the present leader of the Opposition and \$60,000,000 as estimated by the late Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), found themselves confronted with an expenditure which has run into \$200,000,000. Mr. Fielding did not want to borrow the money; he was obliged to do so, and he borrowed \$110,000,000 within a period of thirteen or fourteen months. There has been nothing like it since Confederation.

Following up that line of argument, and to give the remainder of the detailed information asked for by the hon. member for Halifax—for the comfort, too, of the hon. member for the city of St. John—I may say that the total estimates presented to the House for the nine months ended March 31, 1907, amounted to \$74,000,000. Add one-third of that and you get approximately \$100,000,000 for a period of twelve months. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 1908, the aggregate of the Estimates was \$124,000,000, and for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1909, the total Estimates were \$133,000,000. Yet hon. gentlemen charge me and this Government with extravagance.

Now we come down to the particular department over which my genial friend the member for the city of St. John presided. I have under my hand a statement prepared by my deputy as to the total public works estimates, capital and income, presented to the House for a certain number of years. I find that for the nine months ended March 31, 1907, the main consolidated and supplementary consolidated estimates for the entire year amounted to \$10,000,000. Add one-third, and we have approximately \$13,000,000. In the following year, in which my hon. friend says that he made a sacri-