

to enable the Minister to introduce this Bill? Did it not look very like as if hon. gentlemen opposite were mounted on that very scaly horse, and were meandering about in such fashion that they did not know where they were going? But, finally, instead of going to the people, they suddenly made up their mind it was not safe to trust the people, that they had better face the people's representatives once more in session.

Now, Sir, I want to draw attention to one or two statements that were made by the Controller of Customs to his address to the House the other day. I do it because naturally the utterances of an hon. gentleman occupying his position, who controls the Customs, the one large revenue-paying branch, are likely to attract attention and receive consideration at the hands of the people. What do we find that hon. gentleman said with respect to the expenditure of the Mackenzie Government, as compared with the expenditure on public affairs to-day? I read from the official report:

The total expenditure of 1872-73 was \$19,174,000. When the Reform party came into power in 1874, that expenditure jumped up to \$24,448,000, or an increase of \$5,318,000 in one year, in spite of their professions of economy.

Then the hon. gentleman goes on to moralize and prophesy. He said:

And I think it would require no prophet to assure us that, if they should come into power to-morrow, we would find history repeating itself.

Turning to the Public Accounts issued for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1894—what do I find? I find that the quotation made by the hon. gentleman does not quite agree with the official statement in the Public Accounts. The hon. gentleman said the expenditure in 1872-73 was so and so. So it was. But it so happened that the whole of the year 1872-73 was passed before the Mackenzie Government came into power, and four months of 1873-74, and that the Estimates for 1873-74 were passed by the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. Sir Leonard Tilley was Finance Minister, and one-third of the year had passed. The Controller of Customs concealed the fact that between those two periods we had added another province to confederation, and that the whole of the expenditure for Prince Edward Island was added to the expenses of the country. I am not surprised that the hon. the Controller has got himself into trouble in this House. I am not surprised that when the Minister of Railways and Canals was confronted with his campaign speeches during last fall, he found himself compelled to repudiate not only the statements of gentlemen who heard him make the statements attributed to him, but also the statements of his own official reporter. Let me draw the attention of the House to one more statement: That taking the whole of 1873-74, the Esti-

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth).

mates for which were furnished by hon. gentlemen opposite, and in regard to which the preceding Government had expended four months of the revenue out of the twelve before Mr. Mackenzie came into office, during that year the total expenditure under the Mackenzie Government was only \$23,316,000, and when that Government went out in 1878, after administering public affairs during five years, the expenditure had only risen to \$23,503,000. The last year's expenditure of hon. gentlemen opposite has risen to the enormous sum of \$37,585,000, and yet the Controller of Customs has the cheek to come and tell this House about his economy as compared with the Administration of the Mackenzie Government. The debt statements are another example. We assumed in 1873 along with the administration of Prince Edward Island, a debt of \$4,700,000, which came into the accounts for the first time during the first year of Mr. Mackenzie's Government. Yet the Controller of Customs was not fair enough to make that statement.

But let me take another method with which hon. gentlemen opposite deal with the finances. We have heard considerable to-day from the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Sproule) with respect to certain expenditures in Quebec, and we heard a beautiful fairy tale about \$50,000 which was being contributed for some Liberal annexation fund from the American side. I think the hon. gentleman should have listened to the statements of the Finance Minister the other day, when he told the House that the credit of the American Union was so low that while we could borrow money in England at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, the United States had to pay $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent; and yet the hon. member for Grey makes himself believe that they would spend \$50,000 for the purpose of annexing Canada to the United States.

Mr. SPROULE. That is why they are so anxious to get us annexed.

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth). I admire the abiding faith of the hon. member for East Grey. If he can accept that, it is clear that his faith could remove mountains if necessary to make an impression in a political campaign. But I come back for a moment to the statement made by the Controller of Customs with respect to provincial expenditure. He gave the House a table showing increased expenditure of various provinces, and then he held up his hand in horror, and said, Look how these Grit Governments have increased the expenditures in the various provinces of the Dominion. The \$9,132,000 it took in 1894 to collect the revenue of the Dominion is the best answer to that statement; but he did not go so far as my respected friend, the member for King's (Mr. Macdonald), who told the House that Ontario had a debt of about \$1,500,000.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has it any debts?