

to leave a clean sheet for the present administration and to swell the apparent deficit of that year.

The first essential for the issue of a special warrant is that the occasion for the expenditure of the money should have been unforeseen and of absolute urgency.

What excuse can the Government give for the issue of warrants when the expenditure was not only foreseen, but their attention was called to it in this Assembly.

During the last session of the House the attention of the Government was called, not indirectly or obscurely, but by a formal motion made by the Honourable member for Joliette (Mr. Tellier) which is recorded in the Journals of the House, to the fact that their Appropriation for the current year for the expenses of surveys was altogether inadequate, and the Honourable Member moved that the House should protest in advance against all expenditure which the Government might deem advisable to incur by special warrant, after the present session, by reason of the insufficiency of the Appropriation.

Again, during the same session, standing in my place in this House, on the item of \$12,000 for the protection of forests, I called attention to the fact that the appropriation for that purpose voted for the year 97-98 had been entirely expended on the 8th December, 1897, and that the Government had made no provision for the expenses of this service for the balance of the fiscal year. And I protested then against any expenditure by special warrant, and against any engagements being entered into by the Government without the regular vote of this House.

What do we find Mr. Speaker? By the statement of special warrants submitted to us by the Government on the 13th day of January last, it appears that the Government issued special warrants between the sittings of the House to the extent of \$93,137, the first being issued on the 12th March, 1898, and the last on the 19th October, 1898, and included in these amounts we find a special warrant in June for \$4,000 for the protection of forests, and in October one for \$17,743 for Surveys.

I protest again, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable gentlemen cannot point to a similar warning given to a conservative administration, and to a similar cynical ignoring of the principles which govern the expenditure of public moneys.