

Taxation and Expenditure.

PLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES.

**Enormous Growth in Expenditure and Debt.—Steady Increase
in Taxation.—Extravagance in Every Department.—
Expenditure Surprises the Finance
Minister Himself.**

In the year 1893 the Liberal party of Canada assembled in convention at Ottawa, made a strong and important declaration on the question of taxation and expenditure. Hon. W. S. Fielding, then Premier of Nova Scotia, was chairman of the Committee on Resolutions. On his motion it was resolved that:

PARTY PLEDGES.

"We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion, and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the Governments that have been continuously in power since 1878, and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country."

The literature of the party issued later contained a pledge to "reduce expenditure and cut down expenses with all possible rapidity."

In support of this programme strong declarations were made by party leaders who now hold positions of authority in the Government. A few of these may be quoted:

THE PREMIER'S PROMISE.

Speaking at Brampton previous to the election of 1896 Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:

"The expenditure of this country has grown until the people are unable to bear it. I promise you that if you put our party into power we will reduce that annual expenditure by \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 per annum."

Again—Sir Wilfrid Laurier:

"If we get into power we will follow the example of Mr. Mackenzie, and I say that although we may not be able to bring the expenditures to what they were under him we can reduce the amount \$3,000,000 per year."

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Sir Richard Cartwright, criticizing the budget of 1896 said:

"For my part I do not hesitate to tell you that I consider a yearly expenditure of \$40,000,000—or \$38,300,000—altogether too large for the present resources of Canada. I say that it is a disgrace and a shame to the Government that have been entrusted with our affairs that they come