

nothing; but is it fair play to refer to the evidence of Messrs. Clark and Savigny and not to give the statements of Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Davidson, which were most positive? I think it would have been but fair to have contrasted the evidence of the Premier and Mr. Davidson with that of Messrs. Clark and Savigny.

Hon. Mr. McLELAN—Hon. gentlemen opposite complain of the length of the Session, and the numerous attacks on the Government. It has been somewhat protracted, but that is not our fault. There have been attacks on some of the many failures of the Government to discharge aright their duties, and some hard things have been uttered in discussion, a good many pleasant things and some things rather surprising have been said. But I venture to say that nothing has more surprised this Senate, or is more calculated to astonish the country than the declaration just made by the hon. Secretary of State, that their financial administration has been so admirable as to improve the credit of the country among capitalists; thereby largely reducing the rate of interest. The country will be slow to believe that the position to which the Government has reduced us—the surplus gone; trade largely reduced; the industries of the country prostrate, and annually recurring deficits of millions—is calculated to inspire the money lenders of the world with such confidence as to give us larger rates of interest. The explanation has been repeatedly given that the position in which the late Government left our finances, as shown by Mr. Cartwright when he went to borrow, induced a low rate, and a large amount of money having been borrowed at that low rate to take up old bonds bearing a high rate, the change makes the lower average rate that we are paying. In considering the Bill before us I have to repeat the complaint made by hon. gentlemen on this side, that at the last hour of the Session we are called on to sanction the expenditure of so many items, and in the aggregate, such an enormous sum. The hon. Secretary of State says the Bill has been detained in the Commons two months by the Opposition. I am not surprised at that opposition. In fact the true friends of the country would have been false to their duty had they not protested against the

Hon. Mr. Penny.

amount demanded by the Government—an amount extraordinary under any circumstances, and in the condition of our revenue and the limits which taxation has reached, really alarming. A few years ago the gentlemen now in the Government, but then in the Opposition, professed to be horrified at the proposition of the late Government to expend in a period of ten or more years thirty millions for the Pacific Railway, and here to-night in this Bill, brought down at the last hour, they call on us to vote nearly fifty per cent more than that sum—over forty two millions. To complete the year 30th June, 1878, they ask us to vote, chargeable to income, \$848,290; and chargeable to capital, \$1,873,114; and for the year 1878-9, \$39,998,204; making a total, at one vote, of \$42,719,608. Enormous as this sum is, we know that they will expend beyond it. It is their custom to under-estimate—to vote in advance a small sum, and then spend the summer in boasting of economy, and, as proof thereof, holding up the amount provided in the Estimates. It is a mode of deception that must be short-lived. So late as the 25th of September last, Mr. Cartwright, at one of those celebrated picnics as reported (page 162) said: "The sum we demanded to meet all services was \$23,378,000." He makes this statement, has it carefully reported, and allows it to stand, that his followers all through the Session, may boast of his economy; and now, at the last hour, adds to it nearly a million dollars, chargeable to income, besides nearly two millions more to be added to our debt. And just so will it be that the Government will expend more for 1878-9 than we are now asked to vote. What we have been promised, and what we had every reason to expect was reduced expenditure. We have had a succession of deficits, and there is every indication that there must be a third. The sum voted last Session for the year ending June '78, was \$23,378,000. We are asked now to add to it, chargeable to income, \$848,290, making, together, \$24,226,290, whilst the total expenditure last year charged to income was \$23,519,301, showing a contemplated increase of \$706,989. With last year's expenditure the deficit was, exclusive of the disputed suspense account, \$1,460,027, making, together, \$2,167,016, which would be the deficit for