

the past year have been fully realized, and although the large and unforeseen extraordinary expenditure in connection with the difficulty in the North-West Territories has caused increased and exceptional expenditure, nevertheless the people of the Dominion will loyally concur in making the necessary provision for recouping the expenses thus unavoidably contracted in the best interest of the country under the most urgent and trying circumstances.

The several measures foreshadowed in the Speech other than those referred to by me are all of a practical and special character, and I have no doubt that such consideration will be extended by hon. members on their introduction in this Chamber as will ensure their, being engrossed as part of the future laws, of the country.

I have now to thank hon. gentlemen for the patient hearing of this my maiden attempt in addressing them, and trust they will overlook any defect or shortcoming in my first effort at conveying my views in reference to the subject now under consideration.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—The House may think it very strange that I should have the presumption to rise before the leader of the Opposition. I do so purposely. I do so in order to say what I have said before, that the leader of the Opposition in this House has not acted in a manner worthy of himself or his party during the last five sessions. I do not belong to the party to which the hon. gentleman belongs, but I think he should have acted differently in the parliament of a great country like this when public affairs are not managed in conformity with the views of the people.

With regard to the speeches that have fallen from the mover and seconder of the address, I am sure that the House will concur with me that we are all much gratified at the manner in which those hon. gentlemen have discharged their duties. I do not rise to consider His Excellency's speech, because it is well known that the speech from the throne in a colonial parliament is generally a very unmeaning document. It embraces in fact as little as possible of the public questions of the day. It not unfrequently

dwells upon the great prosperity of the country, arising from the industry of the people, and we have no objection to hon. gentlemen taking credit for all that the industry of the people has produced. This debate at the opening of every session, appears to me to furnish a very favorable occasion for taking a cursory view of the acts and general administration of the party in power. And who are the party in power? The party in power is the first minister, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald. That is the party in power, and he is a very wonderful man. His counsels, and resolves, and determination guide the party—and he has had in the past a large and powerful army at his back to carry him into power and to keep him in power. Some have lately observed that the mistake he made in life was in not entering the church; because they observed that he has done much to raise the standards of honour and truth in the councils of the country! He is regarded by them with great esteem. He certainly would have been a very fitting prelate for one of the great churches. Talleyrand was a man very much of the same type: but Talleyrand commenced his career as a dignitary of his Church before entering into the field of diplomacy.

Now my purpose in rising to-day—which I do with great humility, and with great respect for the members of this House—is to enquire whether the Government of this country has been prudently and honestly administered. That is what we as the representatives of the people have to ascertain. I fear that I shall have to dwell upon a very sad record. There is staring us at this moment the sad incontrovertible evidence (which we obtain from the blue books) of the prodigal waste and recklessness of that colonial statesman. It is not denied that he has brought up the controllable expenditure of the country from \$6,500,000 in 1878 to \$13,000,000 in the brief period of seven years. He has added further, as the Ministerial organs all admit, \$80,000,000 to the public debt, while the Government are extracting from the pockets of our industrious people a tariff ranging up to 25, 30 and 35 per cent., which is most burdensome on all classes. I have felt it myself to be burdensome. I could