

to object. It is only a pretence. These very opponents demanded the same course—the only proper one. Had Government chosen, the whole expense could have been reduced below even Sandfield Macdonald's mark. They might have kept the cash in hand, and not assisted the people—might have merely attended to the business of legislation and administration, left as much as possible on the counties, and had much less expense and labour. But in that case, every county, township and riding would have been put to much greater expense for schools, for law, for roads, for asylums, for prisons. And all this they must have met by direct taxation on their own assessment roll every year. Would they be consoled for this by the knowledge that government still had cash on hand which would do some day for their children? They would think it very ill saved. Well, this is simply the meaning of the cry of increased expense the Opposition raises. Government has taken on itself much expenditure out of its own income, which otherwise the counties, towns and cities must do for themselves, or do—very badly—without it.

The present Administration has done, undoubtedly, valuable work for the country, work which, if I am not mistaken, the Opposition could not have done, certainly not with such ability. They have settled the boundary question, thus giving us another territory in the North-West as large as the Ontario we before possessed—a territory containing much valuable timber where timber is most valuable, on the road to the pineless prairies—containing also many large lakes and rivers, and having great mineral and agricultural resources. They have consolidated the Statutes, a work of much labour, and a work which saves expense to every suitor at law. They have increased the representation where needed, and it is a proof of their honesty that they gave members principally to Opposition districts, which returned Oppositionists before, and have since returned additional ones. They have introduced the vote by ballot, which is working well, and have passed an act concerning voters' lists, which has been of good service and will be of more. They have repealed the stamp duties in the Division and County Courts, and provided for the payment of witnesses in criminal cases, which you all know was much wanted. They have also passed laws to secure titles to property after certain years, to prevent insurance companies avoiding payment, and to give mechanics a lien on the property they benefit by their labour—all acts much needed. But I have not space for the detail of all, and simply may remark that many other valuable acts were passed by them.