

abnormal expenditures that occurred in almost every one of those years. Therefore, for the purpose of comparison there is no use in presenting the statements of the hon. gentlemen to the House unless you are willing to go back, and reshape, revamp, as it were, the expenditure during the Conservative administration, making credit for expenditures which would be fairly compared with these. But while my hon. friend is ready to snatch at Yukon expenditure as a first-rate argument with which to justify himself and his friends before the country for a small part of the expenditure for next year, have we forgotten that during the long time they were in opposition they refused stubbornly to give the Conservative government credit or allowance for the vast expenditures which it had to incur in connection with the acquisition and with the development of the great North-west Territories. When they came into power this great heritage was placed under their care, the postal system had to be developed and an expensive system of Mounted Police had to be maintained; provision had to be made for the surveys of the land and provision had to be made for bringing that vast territory from a lone land such as it was then and converting it step by step until it was prepared to take its place along the line of the provinces of the Dominion of Canada. That was the responsibility that devolved upon the Liberal-Conservative government during all those years, that accounted for much of the increase in the debt which had to be incurred in building the great Canadian Pacific Railway; that was the foundation of the increased expenditure and increased capital expenditure and increased debt during the time the Conservative government were in power. But the hon. gentlemen opposite who now stand pleading that we should exonerate them before the people of this country from their broken pledges, because they had an expenditure of half a million dollars in connection with the Yukon territory: the gentlemen who refused during all those years to give their predecessors the slightest credit for the enormous expenditures they had to incur in development of the great North-west and Manitoba now come and ask the House and the country to forgive them for their broken promises, for their extravagant expenditure and for their swollen estimates, simply because they had to spend half a million dollars in connection with the Yukon territory. Hon.

gentlemen, I do not propose to follow these observations any further; I desire, however, to place on record my protest against these expenditures, not only because they are large as compared with the expenditures incurred during the Conservative administration, but because I believe these expenditures are extravagant in themselves. I believe that as time goes on we shall see that our friends in the government have deviated widely from the policy they pursued in opposition and the platform they then laid down. There must be some influences at work in which I would be very sorry to include either of the hon. gentlemen who sit in this House, for I believe neither of them would be capable of being a party to what is corrupt or wrong, but I cannot help believing that for some of these extraordinary expenditures, which this country has now incurred and which will weigh us down with a heavy debt in the future, there are in many cases reasons other than those drawn from the consideration of the public interest. I know my hon. friend is anxious to profess his own honesty and the honesty of the government in reply to these observations. However, I only make them in some way to find in my mind an explanation of the extraordinary expenditures that are being incurred. I cannot understand why this government should vote such extravagant sums of money as they are voting, why they should go back on all their solemn promises, why they should do all this, and do it in the very early days of their administration when they cannot have forgotten the promises they made to the people and the warnings they received. I cannot believe they can have done so unless there is in the administration some evil influence that consults other interests than the best interests of the people of this country.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I am sure that my hon. friend beside me and myself are very grateful to the hon. gentleman for his promised certificate of character. I suppose when we apply to him it will be given under his hand and seal, and the result will be that the hon. gentleman's friends all over the country, whatever they may say with regard to our colleagues, will always exempt us from the imputations which the hon. gentleman has made on this occasion with so much candour and frankness. The hon. gentleman has told us of the economical tendencies of the government of which he