

cost higher the police must also. In 1875, the Police cost \$54,563.06; to-day it costs but \$13,525.77. Since the Conservative Administration has come into power tranquility has returned, and the police has no longer its *raison d'être*. Thus there is in that item a decrease of \$41,037.29. In those days Statistics cost \$67,552.16. We have reduced their cost to \$22,408.13, or a decrease of \$45,144.03. The Lighthouses and Dominion Coast Service, which cost, in 1876, the sum of \$545,848.62, now costs but \$443,724.36, a decrease which saves the people \$102,124.26. Now, let us come to Immigration. Mr. Speaker, the stream of immigration is greater to-day than it was then; more immigrants are coming into the country to-day than then; less Mennonites have come, perhaps, but still we have a greater number of immigrants to people our lands; yet in 1876, immigration cost the country \$385,845.36. We have reduced this amount to \$250,812.99, or a saving to the people of \$135,032.37. On the Militia, the amount has been reduced from \$1,013,943.84, that it was in 1875, to \$667,000.51 for last year, or a decrease of \$346,943.33. If, Mr. Speaker, you sum up the few items I have mentioned, you will find, on comparing the expenditure of the Liberal with that of the Conservative Administration, that there is, in favor of the latter a decrease of \$480,902.03, as shown by the following table of comparative statement of expenditure:—

	Liberals.	Conservatives 1861.	Decrease.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Legislation (1876).....	627,230 67	611,375 73	15,854 94
Fisheries (1876).....	108,183 73	80,560 35	27,623 38
Penitentiaries (1875).....	337,593 55	307,366 29	30,227 26
Weights & Measures (1877)	111,085 70	74,170 51	36,915 17
Police (1875).....	54,563 06	13,525 77	41,037 29
Statistics (1876).....	67,552 16	22,403 13	45,144 03
Lighthouses and Coast Service (1876).....	545,848 62	443,724 36	102,124 26
Immigration (1876).....	385,845 36	250,812 99	135,032 37
Militia (1875).....	1,013,943 84	667,000 51	346,943 33
			480,902 03

But, Mr. Speaker, not only are there the expenses of administration, there is also the public debt to be considered. I will quote what the hon. member said in his speech on the 1st July, 1874. Said he: "The public debt was, in round figures, \$108,000,000."

Mr. RINFRET. It amounted to \$109,000,000.

Mr. LANTRY. I think I hear the hon. member say it was \$109,000,000. A million more or less is not of much consequence to the Liberals. At any rate, I will take what he said from the *Hansard*, and I find the following:—

"On the 1st July, 1874, the public debt was, in round figures, \$108,000,000; in 1878, it was \$141,000,000, or an increase of \$33,000,000 during the time the Liberals were in power."

Thus, according to the hon. member himself, the increase of the debt under the Liberal Administration amounted to \$33,000,000. Well, Mr. Speaker, such is not the case. But, before discussing this question, I wish to make a simple comparison. A country is governed, from my point of view, at least, in the same way as a farmer cultivates his lands; there are what is called ordinary expenses as well extraordinary ones. Thus, the Administration of Justice, the working of the Civil Service, the salaries of its employees, the expenses necessary for Legislation, are ordinary expenses for any Government; thus, for a farmer, ordinary expenses consist in the cost of cultivating his land, seeding it, har-

Mr. LANTRY.

rowing it, and so forth. But besides these expenses, there are others which increase the territorial value of the country in the same manner as a certain expenditure will increase the value of a farmer's lands; they are extraordinary expenses, for ordinary expenses do not increase the value of a property, they can only contribute towards the yielding of profits more or less considerable. But if a farmer buys the land of his neighbor, or if he carries out on his property works which double its value, naturally enough his earnings will not suffice to pay that increase; but then the farmer is justified in raising a loan. It is the same in the case of a Government of a country. When the question arises of increasing its territory, constructing railways, digging canals, then the Government is justified in raising loans to meet its extraordinary expenditure; and that is what both Liberals and Conservatives have done. Well, from that point of view, are we going to institute a comparison between the public debt under the Liberal and Conservative Administrations respectively. In 1867, the public debt was \$75,728,641.37; in 1874, when we fell from power, it amounted to \$108,324,964.42, or an increase of \$32,596,323.05. Such was, in 1874, when the Liberals came into power, the real increase of the public debt; but, Mr. Speaker, I read to you just now clause 13th of the national programme, wherein it is said that the Federal Government should assume the debt of the different Provinces, and in the British North America Act, I find at clause 112, the following:

"The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec shall be jointly responsible towards Canada, for the surplus (if surplus there be) of the debt of the Province of Canada, if, at the time of the Union, it should exceed \$62,500,000, and shall be obliged to pay the interest of that surplus at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum."

Thus, at the time of Confederation, in 1867, it was decreed that by that Act, that the debts of the two Provinces should amount to \$62,000,000, and that any sum exceeding that should be paid as indicated by that clause. Now, in 1873, the amount of the debt was thus exceeded, and the various Provinces were to pay this increase. Hence the clause in the programme of the national party, which sought to make Confederation take this increase to its account. Our opponents cannot, therefore, complain; it is one of the fundamental articles of their programme. In 1873, we consequently assumed the responsibility for a considerable sum by virtue of a resolution passed by this House and embodied in 36 Vic., chap. 30. This is what the statute says:

"In the accounts between the several Provinces of Canada and the Dominion, the amounts payable to and chargeable against the said Provinces respectively, in so far as they depend on the amount of debt with which each Province entered the Union, shall be calculated and allowed as if the sum fixed by the 112th section of 'The British North America Act, 1867,' were increased from \$62,500,000 to the sum of \$73,006,088.84, and as if the amounts fixed as aforesaid, as respects the Provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba by the terms and conditions on which they were admitted into the Dominion, were increased in the same proportion."

Now, Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, the debt of the two united Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada was about \$10,700,000. The Confederation having assumed that debt, it became necessary to grant to the other Provinces forming part of the Confederation a suitable proportion so as to put them on the same footing as the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The Public Accounts show that the Provincial debts thus assumed by the Confederation amounted in all to \$20,452,340.58. I showed just now that the total increase of the public debt was \$32,596,323.05 and if we deduct from that amount the amount of the Provincial debts, say \$20,452,340.58, which is not an increase of the public debt, but merely the transfer of a debt owed by the Provinces of Confederation which has assumed the payment thereof, we find that the actual increase of the debt in 1873-74 was but \$12,143,982.17.