

## THE NEW CANADA.

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Hon. W. S. Fielding (Minister of Finance). Mr. Speaker, I believe it was Abraham Lincoln who was credited with the well known observation that you may fool all the people some of the time, that you may fool some of the people all the time, but that you cannot fool all the people all the time. It occurs to me that that which Mr. Lincoln regarded as impossible is what my hon. friends opposite undertake in these annual motions with respect to the public expenditures. Year after year we go through this proceeding, which, so far as hon. gentlemen are concerned, I might almost describe, without using the word in an offensive sense, as farcical. Each succeeding year, at the same period near the end of the session, some hon. gentleman on the other side of the House undertakes to present a dreadful picture of the financial condition of this country. He rolls up all the possible votes he can find, he searches the estimates, the statutes, the railway subsidies and everything of this kind, he rolls them up into one tremendous whole, he puts them up before the public eye, and he says: "See these vast expenditures that the country is being committed to, see how extravagant and reckless the government of this country is, see how the finances of the country are going to the dogs!"

### Prediction vs. Reality.

The hon. gentleman who formerly led the opposition, and who is now no longer a member of this House, Sir Charles Tupper, began this policy in the year 1896, before this government were well settled in their seats, by presenting a picture of the dreadful prospect in store for this country at the hands of a Liberal administration, a picture of reckless financing, of ruin to the public credit and of destruction to the financial reputation of the country. Each year, towards the close of the session some hon. gentleman on the other side of the House repeats something like the same story, adding these extraordinary statements as to the expenditures that are about to be made, and calling upon the country to witness that this Dominion of Canada is in a dreadful position in regard to its finances, or will be at the time at which the current year shall end. But as each year rolls around, as the end of the year is reached, as stock is taken and as the accounts are closed, these hon. gentlemen are brought face to face with the very gratifying fact that the finances of Canada have been flourishing to a greater degree than at any previous period in our history. And then, as the session rolls on, and we reach the last week, again we have the same old story repeated, the same magnified account of the position which the government are in, and the same dire predictions of all that is going to happen