

easy thing for hon. members to say here or elsewhere that the expenditure of the country has increased from \$24,000,000 to \$30,000,000 or \$31,000,000, and to state that that is ample and sufficient evidence to prove the extravagance of the Government. I find on looking over the expenditure of the late Government that from 1874 to 1879 the average expenditure was nearly \$24,000,000, I think \$23,900,000. The smallest expenditure, I believe, was in 1877-78. It was remarkable that the expenditure that year was less than usual—I will not say what object hon. gentlemen had in reducing it then and increasing it the following year—but I will take for the purposes of comparison, and in order that hon. gentlemen opposite may have the full benefit of 1877-78, the expenditure for that year, and compare it with the expenditure in 1874, and I will call the attention of the House to each of the items to show that many of those expenditures on which there were increases did not add one dollar to the taxation, and were necessary and justifiable in the public interest. The difference between the expenditure for 1877-78 and 1884 was something like \$7,500,000, and I can quite understand that that statement, made in Parliament and out of it, is calculated, without explanation, to mislead the public with regard to the expenditures of the Government. The first item I will consider is the expenditure under the head of railways and canals. The expenditure in 1884 was \$1,035,443.81 more than that of 1877-78. Well, Sir, did that cost the country anything? On the contrary, it was a saving to the country. Let me give you, Mr. Speaker, the receipts and expenditure from 1874 to 1879, for railways and public works, and the receipts and expenditure from 1879 to 1884, as an evidence that that increased expenditure did not cost the country anything, but that it was in the interest of the country and of the revenue. Here are the figures :