

public debt. We were spending a great deal of money; we had to acknowledge that it was so. We spent money freely; they said lavishly. We spent money according to the different needs of the country. Ours is a vast territory, and the different sections have their needs. It is the business of a wise Government to study these different needs and adapt their policy to meet the different conditions in the different portions of the great Dominion.

MEETING THE VARYING NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY.

In one section the development of the country can best be served by the construction or aiding of a railway; in another, it is the deepening or widening of a great canal that is needed. In one place there is a legitimate demand for the construction of a public building, which gives convenient accommodation for public business, and stimulates the whole community to improvement. In a big city there is need for a magnificent armoury, and in a smaller community there is need of a modest drill hall, for the proper housing and encouragement of the militia forces. In another case, it is a wharf or a pier on the Atlantic or the Pacific coast, at which the passing steamers may call. In another quarter, the greatest need is a breakwater for the protection of mariners and fishermen. These are works required in the different sections of Canada, each in its own way contributing to the development of the country, and it is the duty of the Government to provide aid in the different sections according to their different needs. We have granted such aid freely. We have spent money liberally. our opponents say lavishly.

ECONOMY, NOT PARSIMONY.

On one occasion, in passing through the streets of one of your beautiful Ontario villages, on the occasion of a political demonstration, I observed a streamer stretched across the street bearing the words, "Wise expenditure is true economy." That is a sound maxim. Economy is not parsimony. Economy is not the denial of expenditures necessary for the development of the country. Liberal grants of public money, faithfully and honestly expended for wise purposes, which tend to the development of the country, are the truest economy. There is a policy, to use a scriptural quotation, which scattereth and yet increaseth; there is a policy that withholdeth, but it tendeth to poverty. (Applause and laughter.)

DEBT NOT INCREASED.

We have spent money liberally on the various works, and in other public services. If I had to come before you to-night and say that we had added largely to the public debt of Canada, I need not feel ashamed to make such a statement. In a country such as