

me if I would prevent this by advancing the money to pay for them. I did. The amount was some ten or eleven thousand dollars.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—For which I suppose, you were paid interest.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Only at the rate of six per cent per annum and the money was not re-imbursed to me until the following September. I have no doubt the Government saved a large sum in that instance owing to the prudence of the then Postmaster General. The present Government should have secured the terminal grounds for the Canadian Pacific Railway before the public knew where the terminus was to be. The manner in which the site for the Toronto post office was purchased, shows what can be saved by the Government acting for the country as prudent individuals would act in the management of their own affairs. Speaking of Fort William I might say something of the harbors of Prince Arthur's Landing and the Kaministiquia River, but I do not think it is necessary. The people at the Landing have built a railway to connect with the Pacific Railway but the Government forbade the connection. They even entered a suit in Chancery, I understand, to prevent the Prince Arthur's Landing Company entering on the Pacific Railway Reserve. That can be but for one reason—the fear that for a considerable part of the year that little railway of six miles would take the whole business from the costly terminus on the Kaministiquia and demonstrate that Prince Arthur's Landing was the proper place for the terminus. The people of Prince Arthur's Landing no doubt understood the Pacific Railway would be completed through to the Red River as a first-class railway, and be ready to do a large business, instead of being restricted to a carrying capacity of only 1,500 bushels of wheat a day. If the people of Prince Arthur's Landing had built a horse tramway like the proposed Government make-shift between Port Savanne and Rainy Lake, it would have answered every purpose until the Canada Pacific Railway is finished to Red River, but they have gone to the expense of constructing a solid railway, equipped with locomotives and other rolling stock. They asked the Gov-

Hon. Mr. Macpherson.

ernment to lend them rails, but they met with a refusal, although there were piles of steel rails at Fort William lying corroding. Of course there are other unfortunate features connected with that terminus, which I might enlarge upon—such as the Neebing Hotel. I ventured to say, a few days ago, that the transfer of the building to the Government involved a fraud. No one can read the evidence without coming to that conclusion. I state again in this connection that I do not mean to impute any wrong or corruption to the Premier. I wish to state this unqualifiedly. I do not think there is anything in the report that would convey such a charge or suspicion; at the same time I think there was a great imprudence, and great favoritism. I think information respecting the terminus leaked out, not through any fault on his part, but through another Department. I shall only further say upon the subject of the Supply Bill that I wish the members of the Government would endeavor to practice economy in their departments. I am afraid there is a rivalry in expenditure in some of the Departments. I am afraid that some of the subordinates may think that the costliness of their Departments will be accepted by the public as indicative of their usefulness. I hope the heads of the Departments will guard against expenditures, except for the most necessary purposes. I venture to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to the fact that there may be in the immigration branch of his department a vast amount of useless and wasteful expenditure, unless it is most carefully guarded against. I have seen that it was stated in another place that unless the usefulness of his department increased this year, the expenditure would have to be reduced. I was very glad to see it. In the Supplementary Estimates there is an item of \$6,000 for extra clerks in the Department of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—It is to pay extra clerks who have been in the office for years, and who have always been paid heretofore out of the Contingencies. This does not add a cent to the expenses of the Department.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—I am very glad to have elicited that informa-