

ment of his views with regard to the pledges and promises of public men, which I think will commend itself to the judgment of the House:

If a public man can hold one set of principles out of office and another set in office, responsible government is a farce.

You have the right to hold the politician to his pledge, just as much as you would the man of business. The man who obtains goods from you under false pretenses is a cheat and a swindler. What should you call the men who obtain votes by means of pledges which they never intended to keep? I say again, if you are prepared to overlook these things then you have no right to ask for fidelity from any man who hereafter represents you.

I credit these words to my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. I am told that he uttered them in days gone by. But whether he uttered them or not, I do not think he will challenge their soundness, and I ask him to apply those words to the record of himself and his political friends during the past six years as contrasted with the promises and professions which they held out to the people during the eighteen years they were in opposition.

The total expenditure of the country is a matter about which, standing on this side of the House, I think I should have a word to say. The total expenditure during the six years, beginning with 1891 and ending with 1896, reached the sum of \$251,682,027. During the six years beginning with 1897 and ending with 1902, it amounted to \$314,520,785, or an increase during that period of no less than \$62,838,758 over the previous six years.

The figures are as follows:

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.			
1891.. ..	\$ 40,973,208	1897.. ..	\$ 42,972,756
1892.. ..	42,272,136	1898.. ..	45,334,281
1893.. ..	40,853,728	1899.. ..	51,542,635
1894.. ..	43,009,234	1900.. ..	52,717,467
1895.. ..	42,872,338	1901.. ..	57,982,866
1896.. ..	41,702,383	1902.. ..	63,970,780
	<u>\$251,682,027</u>		<u>\$314,520,785</u>

The expenditure during the past year amounted to \$63,970,780. During the last year of the late administration, 1896, it was \$41,702,383, showing an increase in 1902 over 1896—the last year of the present ad-

ministration over the last year of Conservative administration—of \$22,268,397.

The average annual expenditure of the present Liberal government during the past six years, amounted to \$52,420,131. Compare this with the average annual expenditure of the previous Conservative government, which amounted to \$41,947,005, and you have an average annual increase under Liberal administration of no less than \$10,473,126.

When I presented similar figures to this House last year the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce was shocked and astonished that any one should so endeavour to mislead the House as to contrast the total expenditures during these two periods. Let me give my right hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce an authority which I am sure he will not call in question, an authority which I am sure he respects more highly than any I could cite. Let me cite to him his own authority as contained in an article published by him in the 'North American Review' some years ago. In that article he made the following contrast:

In 1845 the population of the United States was (by estimate) 20,000,000
The taxes of the United States were..\$27,531,630
The total expenditure was.. . . . 22,935,828

Then by way of comparison, to show how Canada was going to ruin, as compared to the United States, he went on as follows:

In 1889 the population of Canada was perhaps.. . . . 4,000,000
The taxes of Canada were.. . . . \$30,613,522
The total expenditure was 36,917,854

And he made a pitiful comparison between the position of Canada and that of the United States, based on that standpoint. Is it not fair, taking the right hon. gentleman on his own statement, to make a similar comparison to-day? Let us see how such a comparison will work out:

In 1845 the population of the United States was (by estimate) 20,000,000
The taxes of the United States were..\$27,531,630
The total expenditure was.. . . . 22,935,828
In 1902 the population of Canada was (so far as we can ascertain from the census) 5,410,000
The taxes of Canada were.. . . . \$43,389,112
The total expenditure was.. . . . 63,970,780