

existed he cannot bring it beyond \$4.71 per head; and I find now, with a population of 4,250,000, we have a taxation of \$23,912,000, in other words \$5.61 per head; and if you take into consideration the enormous addition to the public burden caused by the oppressive character of his Tariff, we would pay \$7 per head instead of \$5.61. I doubt that this is even too favorable a view to take of the case, as there is too much reason to think that when we take the Census as our guide we are resting on a very uncertain basis. Canada, I think, of all civilized countries possesses alone a Census as to which only one certain part is known, and that is, that it is utterly unreliable, that it is not an enumeration of the people, that it does not give the number of Canadians in Canada, but the number that are in Canada, and a certain number of Canadians outside Canada, as to whom no one can say one-tenth or one-twentieth will return. I fear that the mode in which that Census was taken was with a deliberate fraudulent intent. I fear it was taken for the purpose of eluding the terms of the Confederation Act and depriving the Province of Ontario and the Province of Nova Scotia of a large part of the representation to which they are justly entitled. It is a very extraordinary fact that the Province of Quebec, a Province which was alleged to have been depopulated under my hon. friend, has increased under this Census twice as much as it had between 1861 and 1871, and the distribution of the population involves other circumstances which give the census a suspicious character. If that suspicion be unfounded, the hon. gentlemen have, at any rate, deliberately invited it by their barbarous manner of taking the Census—a system which I do not believe would have been tolerated by any other country calling itself civilized. Apart from the enormous amount to which the total expenditure has been swollen, we find on looking on the estimated returns a number of items enormously in excess of the sums expended by us in 1878; and what is very remarkable is this, that the items in which the largest figures appear are precisely those with respect to which these hon. gentlemen were wont to denounce my hon. friend and his colleagues for the display of the greatest extravagance. We find for Civil Government that in 1878 we expended \$823,000; in 1883 the expenditure is estimated to be \$973,000. We find that in the superannuation grants which were also most vehemently denounced, while we spent \$106,000 those gentlemen ask for \$155,000; and if the return lately laid on the table be an index, they are likely to spend \$170,000 in the year 1883. We find that in the Post Office while we spent \$1,724,000, they demand \$2,018,000. We find that in Immigration we spent \$180,000 and they demand \$378,000, and that the total result is, as I said, that against our annual expenditure of \$23,500,000, they demand \$27,750,000 in 1883. Sir, although these cases are bad enough there are worse cases yet behind. When I come to consider the expenditure in some of the other departments, notably when I come to consider the expenditure in the Department of the Interior, I am, to quote a phrase from a colleague of the hon. gentleman, appalled at the extravagance and mismanagement which it discloses. Sir, within a few years, the Department of the Interior has become a very great spending department, perhaps the very greatest spending department in the hands of any Minister of the Government. We find that for the service of the future year, \$909,000 are demanded for Indians; \$413,000 for Mounted Police; \$99,000 chargeable to income for Dominion lands; \$450,000 chargeable to capital for the same purpose; and for the office at Ottawa, \$86,000. Now, it will be interesting to compare these expenditures with those for the same purposes in 1878. Then the Indians cost us \$421,000; our Mounted Police, \$334,000; Dominion lands, \$87,000; and the expenditure for the department here amounted to \$44,000, without counting in either case the salary of the Minister. Our expenditure in 1878, under the administration

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT.

of my hon. friend from Bothwell, for all these purposes, amounted to \$888,000. The expenditure under the Minister of the Interior for the same purposes amounts to \$1,957,000, being an excess of just \$1,069,000. Now, Sir, this is virtually the largest spending department of the Government. It is true that nominally the Department of the Minister of Railways and perhaps the Department of the Post Office, spend larger sums; but, as is well known to the House, so much of the expenditure in these departments is absolutely fixed, that this has become to all intents and purposes the chief spending department. Here you have an enormous increase, and that is not the worst of it. To a very large extent, practically, these charges are fixed charges, are the increase of fixed charges; and when we find that from \$400,000 the expenditure for Indians alone has risen to something like \$1,000,000, and that when capitalized at 4 per cent. is equivalent to an addition of \$15,000,000 to the national debt, we may well ask whither are we drifting? I ask, Sir, is it going to stop? All I can say is, that I fear instead of stopping it will increase. Now this is the department which of all the departments under the control of the Government needs the very closest supervision, needs the very closest personal attention. The difficulties of administering this department are no doubt very great; the distance at which the several officers are from headquarters is great; the temptations to which they are exposed are enormous, and, as everybody who has ever sat in the Cabinet knows, there is, and always will be, under the best circumstances a very great difficulty indeed in efficiently supervising it. It is incomparably the most important department of the Government at this moment, and I do not hesitate to say that it is incomparably the worst managed. Now, I am perfectly well aware that the gentleman who is its present head, is, in some respects, an able man. He is an able lawyer, he is an able politician, but I am bound to say—and it is the opinion which I and many of the older members of the House have always entertained of him—that when we come to the practical working of a department, the hon. gentleman will be found a very indifferent administrator; and here we have a proof, Sir. It was a very great mistake for the hon. gentleman to assume this important Department in addition to the onerous functions devolving upon him as Premier. If the hon. gentleman had been all he is not and all he ought to be, had he possessed the untiring zeal for public service, had he possessed the rigid integrity, had he possessed the powers of industry which my hon. friend beside me (Mr. Mackenzie) possessed, even still I would say that the task would have been too much for his strength or the strength of any man. As it is, Sir, there has been a most complete failure in the administration of this department. We have seen that most enormous increase in the expenditure to which I have called attention. Sir, the state of that department is a by-word on the streets of Ottawa; it is a by-word all through the North-West Territory, from one end of the North-West to the other you hear one chorus of discontent at the inefficiency, at the difficulty of obtaining information, at the lack of courtesy on the part of the officials of the Canadian Government in all matters respecting the settlement of that country. I speak of what I have known. There is not a day that I do not receive communications from many of my own constituents, either in Huron or who have gone to Manitoba, all saying the same thing, all repeating the same charges, the same complaints against the administration; all giving information as to how the officers have abused their position; all repeating that you cannot obtain, in Canada, the most ordinary items of information that are supposed to be given and which ought to be given to settlers seeking their fortunes in the North-West. I will give you, out of a score of letters, an extract from a letter I received but four days ago, and the letter is to this effect:

"I am unable to obtain maps here of any practical use, and I have already applied to the Dominion Lands office at Ottawa, but with very