

reference to the hon. gentlemen who were then opposite to him, and alongside of him, and with reference to the Confederation which they had achieved, and the difficulties his Province would have to surmount in consequence of it; and as he is now in charge of an office, which is specially concerned in the removal, or alleviation of some of those difficulties, we will expect results. I recollect upon the first occasion he addressed the House, I think he pointed out to us what had been said by an hon. member with reference to Confederation. He said :

"The member for Lennox spoke of the great sacrifices which he said the public men of the Provinces made for union. Looking along the Treasury benches at the smiling faces of the occupants, one feels that it must be a pleasant sacrifice, a happy and profitable kind of martyrdom for which, I have no doubt, there was a considerable rivalry. There are two of the offices now vacant; two altars without an offering; but we must not suppose that it is because statesmen cannot be found for the sacrifice, when it is the country only that bleeds, and let us see to what extent. I take a number of the heads of the Departments coming first on the list, and we find the average cost to be \$40,000. This multiplied by 13 will show that in the sacrifice spoken of by the hon. member, the country will be bled to the extent of half a million."

I await the hon. gentleman's estimates for the current year, in order to compare his figures with those mentioned on that occasion. Then departing from these minor and departmental details of expenditure, he said :

"But the people of Nova Scotia believed that while an increased expenditure will be made in the general administration, it will bear especially hard on them under the lowest tariff of the confederated Provinces. We raised a larger revenue per head than any of the others; and we see that when our tariff is made equal to the others, we shall be taxed out of all proportion for the maintenance of the General Government."

Again :

"You have included an extent of country that cannot be moved by any one interest or influence, any more than the agitation of one pool can be made to move the waters of separate and distinct pools."

Again :

"When the proposition was made to place our commercial interests under your control for the purpose of developing them, an idea of the ridiculous presents itself, such as one feels when seeing a hen appointed to a flock of ducks, the natural instincts of the one are inland, those of the others on the waters."

But the hon. gentleman has forgot his natural instincts, and has, for some time, been able to drag himself as far inland as Ottawa. He says further :

"The people felt that the proposers of this scheme had become so excited over this idea of a new nationality, a new Dominion, that they would incur expenditures which would largely increase the burdens of the people."

Well, now, the hon. gentleman has seen what has gone on for some years. He has helped or hindered, as the case may be. He is now in a position to control the finances of the country, and we shall expect his Budget Speech garnished, of course, with cradles and orange blossoms, to contain some practical propositions of the retrenchment which he is now in a position to secure. To him, in his ministerial capacity, has succeeded the hon. member for King's, N. B. (Mr. Foster), who, as a principal organ of the Government declared, is to give the Government that peculiar strength—that cold water sort of strength—which Sir Leonard Tilley afforded to it while he was a member of the Government. Perhaps he will. He is a youthful parliamentarian, though, I believe, a veteran orator, and he has passed as a youthful parliamentarian to those benches, the longing for which the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McLelan) so vividly described in the extract I have read. The hon. gentleman helps to preserve that mixture in the Cabinet, which is completed by the conjunction of the hon. member for London (Mr. Carling) and the Hon. Mr. Smith, and which can be so admirably appreciated by the great mixer and compounder of all. We have lost the hon. the late Minister of the Interior, and that is a very serious loss to the First Minister. He took him in as an apprentice into his office; he educated him under

his own eye for some time in the office of the Interior; he watched him in the discharge of his duties, as he learned by slow degrees to imitate the masterly inactivity and the wonderful and extreme procrastination of the right hon. gentleman; and as soon as he had thoroughly indoctrinated him in the art of how not to do it, so soon as he had thoroughly satisfied himself that he would be an admirable successor, and would perhaps even better the hon. gentleman's own performances, he appointed him formally to the office. We all remember, that as long as the First Minister himself filled it, we were told that everything was being done most diligently that ought to be done, that nothing was omitted, and that every wish, want and reasonable aspiration of the people was being responded to by that Department. We remember too, that when a change was made, and the hon. gentleman formally appointed his successor in office, it was said there was going to be an improvement on the condition of things which had been so excellent, that it was quite impossible, we supposed, that it could be improved upon. But still, there was going to be an improvement; new blood had got into the Department, new vigor had been infused into it, and there would be a more responsive action on the part of that Department. And we remember afterwards that the customary pæans of praise accompanied the Minister all through his career. We were told that everything was right, that when the lands were removed from the market, that was right; when they were offered for sale to the speculator, that was right; when they were restored again to homesteads and pre-emptions, that again was right. Whatever was done from day to day, was just exactly the right thing. Last Session, when the country turned out to be in a blaze, the hon. gentleman opposite declared that all was right still. He declared boldly that the Government had been guilty of no single act of neglect, of no single act of delay, but had in all things, acted promptly, and with admirable judgment, and upon these things he challenged enquiry, he challenged attack. Indeed, it would have been high ingratitude, if he had taken any other course, since I firmly believe that the late Minister of the Interior was but the echo of the First Minister in the administration of his Department. However, he has left office with, we are sorry to believe, his health impaired. I trust it will be restored by freedom from ministerial cares. I congratulate hon. gentlemen opposite that they still have left to them that most important and eminent proof—as the hon. gentleman declares him to be—of his capacity and judgment in the choice of men for important office—Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney. I share their regret that they have lost the services of Mr. Wilkinson, who has been appropriated by an experienced and extensive contractor whom he is now serving instead of serving the State in the office of registrar. I trust that the hon. gentleman may still be able to fulfil that pledge made in Mr. Wilkinson's behalf and give him the office which he wanted. Of course, it could not be expected that the Government could fill the vacant place of the Interior. They have, however, put in a stop-gap and used the best timber available for the purpose. I am willing to admit that the present Minister of the Interior has some, and some considerable claims upon the Tory party, and considerable qualifications for a Tory Minister. If there is one thing which should give a public man claims on the gratitude of his party it is taking pains to establish the accuracy of their views of public affairs and the correctness of their forecast of public events; and in a notable case the hon. gentleman has performed that valuable service to the party to which he belongs and of which he is so great an ornament. He has furnished proof—proof beyond contradiction and beyond cavil and controversy—of the correctness of their predictions when the Independence of Parliament Act of 1878 was going through Parliament. At that time, the House will remember, the