

to send an exhibit to the international fair to be held in that country. There is a class of people in Belgium who might very profitably be induced to come to Canada, and by a good exhibit of the products of the Dominion showing its agricultural, mineral, timber, and fishing resources, which make a country great, wealthy and prosperous, no doubt we would be able to induce a very desirable class of people to come to Canada, a much more desirable class than many who have been brought to this country in the past.

The reference to the public accounts is a stereotyped expression. We will see, when the estimates come down, what economy we may expect. If we were to judge of the policy of the government by past experiences, I am afraid we shall be sadly disappointed. We have heard promises of the same kind before. We were told in the past that if they should obtain power they would reduce the annual expenditure some three or four million dollars yearly. How that promise has been kept, the Minister of Trade and Commerce can tell us if he thinks proper to discuss the subject. I have not a very vivid imagination, I am rather more practical than imaginative, but I can fancy that hon. gentleman's expressions, had the Conservative party been in power and brought down such estimates as have been presented to parliament for the last three or four years, amounting to an annual expenditure of over sixty millions of dollars. Why the House—I might say the parliament buildings—would have rung with his protests, and you might easily have gone down to the club and stood on the balcony and heard denunciations from him as loud and possibly as honest as one could expect. However, the country grows. I have read with a great deal of interest the speech delivered by the hon. gentleman in Toronto, and was forcibly reminded of another little incident which occurred when Sir Charles Tupper was contesting the elections as head of the government in 1896. Great objection was taken by the 'Globe' and by nearly every Liberal speaker in that campaign, of the use of the personal pronoun 'I' by Sir Charles Tupper. Have any of you read the report of the speech delivered by Sir Richard Cartwright in Toronto lately? If you have, I ask you to count the number of 'I's.' Perhaps you will be surprised when I tell you that in

that speech alone there are just 280 capital 'I's.' I counted them twice and marked them all with a black mark. It brought forcibly to my mind the campaign literature that was put before the people of this country, and impressed them with the belief that Sir Charles Tupper had no idea of government or any consideration for anybody except the great 'I.' Great minds run in the same channel, and I take it for granted that both gentlemen had an exalted opinion of their own importance.

There are some points on which I should like to have had information as to the policy of the government. One is with respect to the Halifax dockyard. If newspaper reports are correct, the imperial government has come to the conclusion to withdraw all the imperial forces from Canada and close the naval dockyard. It has also been intimated that it is the intention of the Canadian government to substitute Canadian troops for the regulars who are to be taken away. Perhaps my hon. friend can give us some information on this point. I do not hesitate to say that under all the circumstances I should like to see Canada assume that responsibility. I think it is due to the empire that we should do so. The British navy is to Canadian commerce what an insurance company is to the merchant who insures his goods; it is the protection of our commerce, and while it may not be advisable to go as far as has been demanded by some British statesmen, I think we might safely go to the extent indicated by the press, and assume the responsibility of maintaining a garrison and the dockyard at Halifax. I should like to see also the same system established in different portions of the Dominion that exists in New South Wales. They have training ships, where the waifs of the cities are taken and made first-class sailors of, and as they grow up they are distributed either to the warships or the merchant ships of the country. It is an admirable way of reforming a certain class of boys who have no protection other than that which the law gives them. A training ship in the maritime provinces, one on the lakes and one on the Pacific coast would not cost this country, with its present revenue, more than it could well afford, and would meet to a very great extent the demands which have been made by English statesmen upon Canada.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.