

pensive mode of doing it, because this Parliament cannot be assembled and sit over thirty days without involving an expenditure of \$600,000 at least. The country will feel that there is no value given for that amount of money. In these days of stringency and when there is so little to do, I think the Government might have their measures ready, so that the necessary legislation and also the great inquest could be proceeded with by the Opposition, and both completed within the thirty days, and then one-half the amount usually expended in legislation might be saved to the country. I think that this is a matter which the Government who came into power on such oft repeated promises of retrenchment and economy might well take into consideration. It affords great scope for retrenchment. I cannot compliment the Government upon the fulfilment of their promises of retrenchment and economy. Nothing could have been more disappointing to the country than their failure to redeem their promises on these points. The expenditures to which they are committing the Dominion is alarming. I see by the Public Accounts that the net debt now exceeds \$124,000,000, and we are committed to an utterly useless expenditure of twenty millions more between the head of Lake Superior and Red River. Surely the Government, knowing the state of the country, and having the Public Accounts before them, will pause before proceeding with this expenditure; they must feel that it will be unproductive, and that the finances of the country are unable to bear it. I certainly did not expect to have to charge the Government of Mr. Mackenzie with reckless expenditure and departmental extravagance, but I have to do both. It was the last charge I expected that they would have been open to. It is true I judged Mr. Mackenzie by his professions. When he first formed his Government—although there were two coalition blots upon it—what from his previous professions he must have considered blots—it was the Mackenzie-Dorion Government. It was respectable, and much was expected from it. I expected much from it, but I had little idea then that the Mackenzie-Dorion Government would have degenerated so rapidly into the Mackenzie-Cauchon Coalition.

I will only allude to one other subject. Considering the general depression that prevails throughout the Dominion, I think it would have been well if the Government had called the attention of Parliament to it, and had been prepared to submit to the Legislature some amendment to the Insolvent Act. Seeing the extent to which it is

taken advantage of; seeing the waste of assets in the hands of assignees, surely it is worthy the attention of Parliament, and the country will be much disappointed unless the Government show they appreciate the gravity of the present situation. Really the most prosperous class, as a class, at the centres of commerce, are the official assignees. I shall only express a hope that this subject will receive the attention of the Government, as it is much more important than anything in the way of legislation mentioned in the Speech.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said:—"This debate has become extremely discursive. The Speech has been discussed on what it does contain, and what it does not contain. We have had a very wide discussion on Free Trade and Protection, and upon the general policy of the Government for the last ten years. It is quite legitimate on occasions of this kind for gentlemen to take a very wide limit in addressing the House, and I have no grounds for complaint against any honorable member of this chamber, with the exception of the gentleman who preceded the last speaker—the honorable Senator from Londonderry. Other gentlemen, I think, kept within the rule and addressed the House in terms to which no one can take objection. I do think, though, and I speak advisedly, that that honorable gentleman has departed from well established rules, and has rather degraded than elevated the debate. The honorable gentleman, as once said by Sheridan, relies upon his memory for his wit, and on his imagination for his facts. He has misquoted some statements, highly colored others, and distorted facts. He astounded me, certainly, when he laid a charge against the committee that sat last session in the other branch of the Legislature, and he repeated the charge, that that committee had attributed to Providence the depression in trade. I confess I was shocked. I asked the honorable gentleman on what page it appeared. After some hesitation he gave me the page—260. I turned to it and I found that it is part of the appendix of the report; that in that appendix is a letter from an American gentleman known as Mr. Wells, and in that letter is a quotation from an Auburn poet, or some one in Massachusetts, in which, I think, the name of Providence is very improperly and disrespectfully introduced. The honorable gentleman, knowing that he was making a false statement, dares to charge that upon honorable gentlemen sitting in another Chamber in committee. I ask the honorable gentlemen if that is fair play? The honorable Senator has sought to charge the Administration