

Pertinent Questions.

Now, I desire to address a question or two to our opponents in this hall or elsewhere. I would like to know why they have considered our proceedings so monstrous, why they have considered we have been so extravagant, so careless, so indifferent as to increasing the public debt, when they have carefully concealed from the people the liabilities of over \$16,000,000 which they had incurred, over \$20,000,000 in fact if I were to add the additional sums they proposed to expend? (Applause.) Why have they chosen to conceal from the people of Canada the fact that for every dollar of the great bulk of the additions we have made to the expenditure from year to year we have received an equal amount in cash and put it in the treasury, including the amount we have spent on the Intercolonial Railway? Why have they chosen to conceal from you that a large proportion of our increased expenditure consists simply of sums expended in the Yukon for the preserving of law and good order, every penny of which comes out of the pockets of the people there and does not add to your burdens? (Applause.) Why have they concealed the fact that the fixed charges now paid by the people of Canada are scarcely more than \$65,000 over the sum demanded by Mr. Foster in 1897? Why have they seen fit to conceal the fact that he asked for almost the same sum for 1897 as Mr. Fielding asks for 1900? Why are they so terror-stricken at the idea of our adding \$6,000,000 of indebtedness to the capital amount of our debt, and under \$70,000 a year to our fixed charges, and why they had not a word to say against the Government that preceded us in a like space of time adding \$16,000,000 to our debt? (Applause.) I make no claim that the present Government is a perfect one; that it has not committed its errors and mistakes as all Governments have done. There is much still to be done, but I take the position broadly and say that for every new expenditure we have made you have received an ample return. (Renewed applause.) Where we have added one million to the public debt, ten millions have been added to the wealth of the people. Where we have added one hundred thousand dollars to the annual fixed charges, we have added five or six hundred thousand dollars to the annual income of the people of Canada. (Long continued applause.) The general development of the country is greater than it has ever been up to the present time. There has been no rash outlay committed, and in all human probability when the 1st of July, 1900, is reached the debt per head of the population of Canada will be very considerably