

later, and to no part of which additional expenditure did Mr. Foster or his friends raise an objection on the floor of parliament, (Cheers.)

The \$38,000,000 Argument.

Then, sir, Mr. Foster declared, and declares at great length and emphasizes it very much, that I in particular asserted in 1895 and 1896 that an expenditure of thirty-eight millions was extravagant under the then conditions existing in Canada. Sir, that is true, I thought so, then, I think so still—(hear, hear)—and were the conditions the same I would use my utmost exertions to cut down the expenditure; but Mr. Foster keeps back from the people whom he addresses these important facts, that at the time I considered an expenditure of thirty-eight millions excessive, at that moment we had a deficit of over four millions of dollars on the expenditure of the current year. (Hear, hear.) He keeps back the fact that since that time the revenues of Canada have practically, to all intents and purposes, trebled, because at that moment all that we had to spend over and above our fixed charges was about six or seven millions of dollars, while to-day the amount at our disposal, exclusive of our fixed charges, is something like twenty-one millions of dollars—(cheers)—being three times the income at our disposal for all practical purposes that we possessed in 1895 and 1896. He keeps back the fact, the all important fact in my mind, that up to 1895 and 1896 the exodus of our people was practically unchecked, and the growth of the population of Canada had fallen below that of many old established European kingdoms, while sir, in the last four years we have every reason to believe that the growth of the population has resumed its normal figure in Canada, and that we have added within these four years probably 500,000 people to the total population. (Cheers.)

So that if you choose to measure the burthens of the people by a per capita standard our expenditure to-day for the self-same service that he purposed to ask \$38,300,000 for—would be found per head to be very considerably less than the expenditure which Mr. Foster himself proposed a matter of four years ago, deducting always those additional charges for which there are cross receipts, and which practically cost the people of Canada nothing whatever. (Hear, hear.)

Now, sir, these are vital facts. These are facts that an honest critic, however he might choose to explain them, would in making the criticisms that Mr. Foster indulged in have placed before the people of Canada. Mr. Foster has not chosen to do so, I have found it necessary therefore to correct Mr. Foster, and I trust that if you happen to hear him on a future occasion you will bear in mind the facts which I have stated, and which are within the power of any one of you to verify by reference to our public accounts. But, sir, Mr. Foster goes further.

Mr. Foster's Latest Formal Charge.

Now, I do not care particularly, to take Mr. Foster's recent speeches in evidence against him. These election speeches of his, I suppose, are