

\$374,765 IN SPECIAL WARRANTS

But in addition to the increased expenditure which I have indicated as having been made in certain services by the present Government, they have gone farther.

Between the dates of the last session of the Legislature and the opening of the present session they have taken the sum of \$93,137.57 in Special Warrants.

As I have already stated, special warrants should only be taken and can only by law be taken in the event of some unforeseen and unexpected expenditure at the time that the supplies are voted by the Legislature, at the preceding session. The principle, it is needless to state which lies at the foundation of the British system of constitutional government is that supplies must be voted by the elected representatives of the people to and for the use of the Crown and that unless such supplies are voted the Government of the day have no right to use the public moneys. The provision by which a government may under certain exceptional circumstances expend money not voted by the people is designed to apply only to cases which could not have been foreseen or provision made therefor at the time of the grant by the Commons. To pretend that because the Government had exhausted an appropriation before the time which the appropriation was designed to cover and which they had led the people to believe was sufficient for the purposes for which it was voted, would entitle the Government to take a special warrant to supplement that vote, is in direct violation of the principle by which supplies are granted and admits of no justification in law or in the constitution.

As an authority on this subject, I may be permitted to quote the words of the gentleman who has had the longest experience of any member of this House and who is in fact the Dean of this House as well as presently occupying the position of Prime Minister and Treasurer. In 1884, during the administration of the Ross Government and while the present Honorable Premier was occupying the position of one of the leaders of the loyal opposition, the Honorable gentleman seconded by the Hon. Mr. Mercier, moved a vote of want of confidence against the then Government in which he stated that "the Ministry has approved of all the adminis-