

very well there never was a period in the history of this country when large amounts were being invested in enterprises, and extension was going on as rapidly as to-day. Take, as an evidence of that, the number of bills passed this year authorizing the construction of railways and other works involving enterprise in carrying them out.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Is that due to free trade?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is due to the wise policy we adopted in reducing the tariff and in giving a preference to the mother country. But let me ask if there are not further evidences that every man has before his eyes in the improved condition of things. Look at the loan companies. The loan companies of this country found they could not carry on a profitable business at the reduced rates, and they came here and asked to be allowed to unite so as to cut down expenses. They could not get investments. It was not as it was years ago, when we chartered company after company to loan money. Ask the registry offices and they will tell you there is a large falling off in chattel mortgages and mortgages on real estate. Are these not most convincing evidences that this country has undergone a marvellous change?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Read *Bradstreets Weekly* reports, and the hon. gentleman will find his statement is incorrect.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am quoting from our own blue books. The hon. gentleman can check them as he pleases. The charges that are made against this government of extravagance and wastefulness are absolutely untrue. I could turn up any volume of the statutes from 1896 back to earlier years and show that in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia large sums were appropriated year by year for the building of wharfs and docks and minor improvements of that kind. I could, if time permitted, show exactly to what the increased expenditure of this year is due. A large portion of it is due to the Yukon and to subsidies we have given in consequence of new developments.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Hear, hear—and useless wharfs and breakwaters.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—In the few moments I have had at my disposal, I have endeavoured to quote some figures to satisfy the House that the statements made by hon. gentlemen opposite in discussing this bill were not correct. In this estimate the government can only be charged with the amount we are authorized to spend, what is contained within those pages, and the total amount of that is \$57,724,000, exclusive of the railway subsidies and the subsidy for the Quebec bridge. There is no \$70,000,000.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—That is \$19,000,000 more than the sum you condemned.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman in counting the annual payment to the Grand Trunk capitalized. You might as well capitalize all the other items. But time is up.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Is that item of \$50,000 given to the hon. gentlemen's supporter on his right (Mr. Snowball) a final settlement?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am not here to discuss items of account, because it is absolutely impossible.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I can answer the hon. gentleman. If the hon. gentleman from Northumberland is entitled to \$52,000, he is entitled to more, because he was awarded more. They took it out of the category of the contract and awarded him this sum on a report made by Mr. Shanly, and Mr. Shanly awarded him a great deal more. Why they cut it down I cannot understand. If they cut it down to the amount they give him, he is entitled to more than they give him.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time and passed.

The House adjourned during pleasure.

THE PROROGATION.

This day, at Four o'Clock P.M., His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL proceeded in state to the Senate Chamber, in the Parliament Buildings, and took his seat upon the Throne. The members of the Senate being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being present, the following bills were assented to, in Her