

apparent state of society, the great body of the people are struggling to keep up a respectable appearance. Every second man you meet will tell you that his income is insufficient to maintain his social position." When lower customs duties would suffice to protect those industries is the Government justified in raising a surplus of four millions? What is the result of the Government having such a large surplus? Simply most lavish expenditure. They act as if the sun would always shine upon them. They are like the imprudent merchant or manufacturer who, because he enjoys a brief period of prosperity, enters upon a career of extravagance which lands him in embarrassment. It is with governments, as with individuals; in the days of prosperity, we should prepare for any adverse change. If we should have bad harvests for two years in succession, we would find the present taxation oppressive, and the result would be general discontent.

We have also to consider whether, from the great encouragement given to manufacturers by the 35 per cent duty, we may not bring about over-production. If the markets should become glutted, instead of our people being employed as they are now, we would find a large number of mechanics and laborers thrown out of employment.

There are many items in this Supply Bill that I should have liked to comment upon; some may be legitimate, but others I believe to be unwise. I may refer to that part of the Estimates which proposes to subsidize a large number of railways through regions which are not fertile, and to which the Government are offering \$3,500 per mile. The effect of this may be to induce municipalities that are poor to involve themselves, and they may enter upon works which they cannot finish; the money will be expended, the municipalities will be led into debt, and the Government will ultimately have to complete the roads. There are not more than two or three of the roads referred to that there is any probability of being built at all. Perhaps this may be a clever contrivance of the Government to appear to assist the various sections of our country, when the country will be unable to supplement such subsidies.

It would have been wise, with this large surplus, if the Government had devoted a

large portion of the \$4,000,000 towards meeting the obligations that we have incurred in connection with the Pacific Railway, the Welland Canal, and other large works. It is true there is a prospect of emigration going into the North-West, but that may not continue so large as at present expected; the sun may shine brightly to-day, but unforeseen clouds come tomorrow. Statesmen act upon the general experience of life and not upon the principle that the future can take care of itself. I shall not refer to a wasteful and foolish expenditure sanctioned by this body, as the leader of the Opposition is not here.

HON. MR. POWER—What was the expenditure?

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—I do not wish to mention it in the hon. gentleman's absence, as I was going to charge him with acquiescing in the same. This can be reserved until a future occasion—I have felt it my duty not to let the Supply Bill pass through without those observations which I have thus ventured to make.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill passed its final stages.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At half past three o'clock p.m. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL being seated upon the Throne, 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 Majesty's name, by His Excellency the Governor General, viz:—

An Act to authorize the raising by way of loan of certain sums of money required for the Public Service.

An Act to incorporate "The Central Bank of Canada."

An Act respecting the Citizens Insurance Company of Canada.

An Act further to reduce the capital stock of the Quebec Fire Assurance Company.

An Act to incorporate the Bank of London, in Canada.

An Act to amend the Acts respecting procedure in criminal cases, and other matters relating to Criminal Law.