

its resources to the extent of \$237,000,000, all to equip itself for a noble race and leave to its children a goodly heritage. I am here to-day to maintain that every dollar of this expenditure, and that all of these obligations which the Dominion has taken upon itself, have been wisely assumed, and in pursuance of a policy which has been for the best interests of the country, as far as its present and future is concerned. To-day, Sir, after twenty-one years of existence, we are face to face with an abundant and buoyant revenue, which ranges from thirty-five and three-quarter millions in 1887, to \$39,200,000 as estimated for 1890-91. We are here with an average expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund, for the ordinary services of the country, of about \$36,500,000 for these five years which I have named, and we are here with a capital expenditure averaging somewhere about \$5,500,000. But, Sir, as I said last year, so I will take occasion to utter this year, a word of caution, and if it be allowable in one so young, a word of counsel as well. I stated last year that looking at the condition of the country, and looking at the munificent contributions which had been given by this country for her public works, and at the splendid equipment which Canada had by means of these contributions gained for herself, it seemed to me that we ought not, after the close of the year 1889, to increase the public debt, that we ought not to increase the public expenditure for ordinary purposes, and, that it was possible by a prudent course, without stinting the public service in any way, to carry on this service in a generous manner, to meet the capital obligations which we had already assumed, and to go to the year 1892 without adding to our net debt. After that it seemed to me that we might well take into consideration whether or not we could not gradually decrease the amount of the debt which we had assumed and placed upon ourselves. Now, Sir, I am here to-day, one year after the time of making that statement, to affirm that I believe the same may be said to-day with equal emphasis and with equal truth : \$36,500,000 of ordinary expenditure, from our Consolidated Revenue Fund gives us, what? In the first place, it is sufficient to carry our national debt, that is to pay the interest on the debt ; it provides for our legislation and civil government ; it administers our justice ; it polices the North-West ; it provides a million and a third for the militia system of the country ; it gives over \$300,000 for steamship subsidies and subventions ; it sustains an expenditure of \$900,000 on lighthouse, ocean, river and coast service ; it gives \$4,000,000 for distribution among the different Provinces of this Dominion ; it looks after the collection of our revenue ; it

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inspects our gas, our staple foods, our weights and measures ; it provides motive power to the extent of \$3,000,000 for our post office and \$4,000,000 for our railways and canals ; and over and above these and other ordinary services, it gives into the hands of the Minister of Public Works more than \$2,000,000 with which each year to build new and necessary public works in this country. Such a contribution as that seems to me to be a generous and princely contribution for a people of 5,000,000 to carry on the ordinary services of the country. The capital obligations, for the building of railways and canals and other public works of necessity and utility, may be met by the surplus which I have outlined, and which we may look for in these three years, to the amount of about \$2,500,000 per year, which, with the sinking fund, would give us about \$4,500,000 per year to meet the capital obligations we have assumed, and the expenditures we may think it necessary to make on capital account. We must recollect what we have done in this country in the way of building public works and opening channels of communication. I find that we have spent out of capital : for the Intercolonial system, \$35,776,129 ; for the Pacific Railway system, \$61,899,600 ; for the Short Line Railway, \$209,356, besides the subsidy which is to run now for some nineteen years, which, at present value, is \$2,679,529 ; for Intercolonial extensions and other Government railway extensions, \$4,389,760 ; for the improvement of the St. Lawrence channel, \$2,968,838 ; for the Canal system, so far, \$32,841,932 ; for Canal works now under contract, \$5,158,749 ; and for the two large and commodious docks which face our eastern and our western waters, \$1,857,499 ; making the total equipment of this country out of capital expenditure for these great means of intercommunication and commerce, \$147,781,392. This is the amount we have paid out of capital for the equipment of the country in its race for commerce, foreign and domestic—for channels of communication which were absolutely necessary to open up this vast extent of country, and which the country has willingly and cheerfully paid for, for the sake of present advantage and future advantage in the great race this country has to run in its competition for commerce and trade with the other countries of the world. For what Canada has assumed in this respect, I believe she has had full warrant ; her circumstances, her hopes and her future demanded it. To carry her present burdens I believe she is amply sufficient ; but for any further increase I believe good reasons are demanded, and good reasons must be given. We have a princely equipment, a royal endowment in these great works I have mentioned ; and if private

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