

to our militia, with the effect of disorganizing a very large part of that force, from which, to some extent, they have even yet hardly recovered in many places. He did it by refusing proper repairs on public works, with the result that so much damage was done that in many cases an expenditure probably of millions has resulted which could have been saved by the judicious expenditure of a few hundred thousands at the time. More than that: when Mr. Foster claims credit for having reduced the expenditure to \$37,000,000 in 1896 he deliberately conceals the fact that in 1895 he had expended \$38,232,000, and in the second place, that for 1897 he demanded a sum of \$38,358,000 for his main estimates alone, not to speak of the very large supplementaries with which I will have occasion to deal a little further on. Sir, when a man in one year spends \$38,132,000, when in the year succeeding he asks for his first estimate \$38,358,000, and when for a special purpose in the intervening year he cuts it down to \$37,000,000, all that I can say is that his conduct is, to say the least of it, very suspicious, and that he has no ground whatever for declaring that he had effected a permanent reduction in the public expenditure.

Cross Entries of Several Millions.

Similarly Mr. Foster declares that our ordinary expenditure in 1900 will amount to \$43,000,000. Sir, that may be, but Mr. Foster is extremely careful to conceal from the people on all occasions this all-important fact, that of the four or five million additional which we propose to spend over his own estimate for 1897, almost the entire amount is made up of sums which cost the people of Canada nothing, which are in the strictest sense cross entries. Mr. Foster knows right well that for the purpose of the sinking fund alone half a million more had to be expended in 1900 than was expended in 1896 or 1897. Mr. Foster knows right well that for the purpose of administering our railways, a charge of \$1,500,000 or \$1,700,000 more was made in 1900 than was made in 1896 or 1897; and he knows that every penny of that amount was collected and credited on the other side in increased receipts of those railroads and did not cost the people of Canada one copper. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Similarly he knows that \$1,700,000 or thereabouts was expended on the Yukon for the benefit of the people of the Yukon, for maintaining order in the Yukon district, and he knows that every farthing of that amount was collected from the Yukon, and it cost the remaining people of Canada nothing. (Cheers.) He knows further that there were three or four hundred thousand dollars additional of interest caused by the necessity of defraying the interest on the excessive increase of capital which he had caused in the years 1895 and 1896 by his own expenditures or by his own deficits. Add those together and you will find that the additional expenditure, four and a half millions or thereabouts, is reduced to an amount of some four or five hundred dollars at most, of which I will give you the details.