

what a serious charge that is to bring against a Government. An Administration we all know of has lately suffered from the consequences of having such a charge made against it. I tell the hon. gentleman and the country that the charge of being grievous taxationists will lie more fairly against the Mackenzie Government than ever it did against any other Administration in this country, federal or local. Notwithstanding the depressed condition of the country and the increased burdens that have been imposed upon the people; notwithstanding the falling revenue which may continue to fall (I hope not, but I see no sign of improvement); notwithstanding these facts, the expenditure of the country is being increased most recklessly and wastefully. I venture to say that never before was a Supply Bill submitted to the Parliament of this country in which there were so many items which might have been omitted altogether, as in the Supply Bill now before this House. Never before did a Supply Bill show such an absence of all thought of honest, earnest retrenchment.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—We are to have an election soon.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—As my hon. friend suggests, we are on the eve of a general election, and a great many items in this Supply Bill look as if they were intended to be useful in that election. Every hon. Senator knows that items are included in it which the state of the finances of the country should forbid the expenditure of some items for purposes which are not pressing, and which might be delayed for years, and some which are not required at all. Nothing could be more wanton and wicked, considering the state of the finances of the country, than this Supply Bill, and, judging by the past, it does not show what the expenditure will be. We have in its schedule "A," upwards of \$2,724,404 which ought to have been estimated for last Session, but which the Government was silent upon then, and expended the money without its having been voted—expended it without the authority of Parliament. Of this sum, \$848,290 is chargeable against revenue; almost exactly what was short-esti-

ated for the year before under that head. Next Session, a million or a million and a half may be required to meet the short-estimate of this year. It is a very easy way to deceive the country if the Ministry of the day feel so disposed. The Finance Minister brings down supplementary estimates to cover the short estimate of the previous Session; the money has been expended; what is to be done? We are not given to impeaching Ministers; if we were, the Minister who would adopt such a course would deserve impeachment, but in this country there is nothing for it but to vote the money, and grumble, or try to look pleasant. There are large items in this Supply Bill of which we have no explanation. Here is one of \$300,000 for "Pacific Railway, Lake Superior to Kewatin." What does that mean? It requires a knowledge of geography which few people in this country possess to understand it. I suppose it means between Lake Superior and the Winnipeg River, at Rat Portage, and possibly between Lake Superior and Rainy Lake. In this item may be included an amount for Mr. Sutherland's connecting link between the two ends of the Canadian Pacific Railway. \$150,000, or more, may be intended to carry out that ill-considered scheme—a scheme which, if completed, would give the two ends of the Pacific Railway a carrying capacity of only 1,500 bushels of wheat a day. I hope, for the country's sake, that no part of the public money will be wasted on Mr. Sutherland's project. A portion of the item of \$300,000 may be intended to pay what remains owing for land at the terminus at Fort William. I believe the whole cost of that terminus has not yet been paid. The Public Accounts show that upwards of \$67,000 have already been paid for the ground, including the Neebing Hotel. Now, the cost of that terminus is enormous, and wholly unjustifiable. As many hon. gentlemen know, the railway need not have touched the town plot of Fort William at all. Without increasing its length, it might have been brought to the River at McKellar's farm and the land for the terminus could have been got probably for \$50 an acre instead of \$500 to \$600 an acre as it has cost in the town plot. Among the items in this Supply Bill, and one that I do think is not creditable to the Government, is one for the