

1874 to 1885, but as I do not wish to weary the House, I will only give the amounts for the last years of each Government as a comparison. In the last year that my hon. friend from East York (Mr. Mackenzie) was in power, our expenditure for civil service was \$861,000, whereas the expenditure for 1885-86, according to the estimates of the present year, will be \$1,200,000, an increase of no less than \$339,000 per annum. Now, you would suppose, if there was an expenditure that the Government would feel a disposition to curtail as far as possible, it would be the expenditure on the civil service of the Dominion. I, however, find the number of persons employed in the civil service under the Mackenzie Government, 390, whereas, according to the estimates of 1885-86, the number has now reached the large figure of 679, an addition of over 70 per cent., or 289, since 1878. Now, that is a very large addition, and when the people see these figures, I think they will make up their minds that the Government of the present day is an extravagant Government. Now, to go back to the election of 1882, it will be remembered that the House was dissolved a year before the expiration of the term. The business of the country had been prosperous; a good many people had made money; the policy of the present Government had enabled a great many people who were interested in manufactures previous to 1879 to get a boom, and to unload their stocks upon other people at a large advance in price; and business generally speaking, was good. The Government, I suppose, took for granted that that was the time to go to the country, for they saw the little cloud in the distance that might overspread the whole canopy by-and-by, and they did not know in what condition they might find themselves at the expiration of the Parliamentary term. Well, what did they say to the people at that time? They told the people that in consequence of capitalists being anxious to invest large sums of money in the manufacturing industries of the country, and the fact that they declined to invest till they could be assured that the National Policy for at least another five years would be continued, the Government determined to dissolve the House and go to the people, in order to get an answer to this question so that the country might have the benefit of this promised capital. Well, the times then were good, and this statement coming from such a source and having been referred to in the Governor General's speech, led the people to suppose there would be large investments in manufactures. The people were busy, the elections were suddenly sprung upon them, very few took any interest in the contest, and the consequence was the Government came back with about the same majority they had before. I know that we have had several bye-elections since. I know what influences the Government have brought to bear in some cases upon constituencies in order to have their friends returned; I know they are all-powerful; I know what is said to the people when the bye elections are held. The people are told: The Government is strong, they are backed by a large majority, what is the use of your returning an opponent at the present time? And I suppose this sentiment prevails except in very intelligent constituencies where the people are guided by principle and are not looking for favors from the Government, and act independently. The Government have been fortunate in carrying these bye-elections, and I do not know that that is any very great disadvantage to the Opposition. I think that, as the matter stands at present, the Government had better have control of affairs a little while longer. A large majority in this House seem willing they should have it, and I do not think it would be very desirable for the Opposition to cross the floor at present, and shoulder the difficulties under which the Government are laboring. There is not a day that we do not see marked, in their countenances, the fact that they have almost insurmountable difficulties to overcome. We know they are

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interviewed by gentlemen from Ontario in the liquor interest, they have to meet gentlemen in the milling interest from Ontario and other parts of the Dominion, they have to confront deputations in the temperance interest from different places, they have to meet gentlemen in the corn interest from the Maritime Provinces; they are confronted by gentlemen in the Canadian Pacific Railway interest from Montreal. All these interests have to be faced, day after day, and where the money is to come from, when the Government grant all the requests that these people make, is what they do not know. They have just now more than their hands full, and, as far as I am concerned, I am willing that they shall carry on the business of the Government a little while longer, but it will not be very long. If the members of the Government had always been of the opinion that the protective policy was the right policy for a country like this, I would not feel they were so culpable, but the majority of them have changed their minds on this subject. There was a time when they were very much opposed to a protective policy, and stated plainly that such a policy would be detrimental to the best interests of the country. And I believe they think so to-day, but having put their hand to the plough they dare not look back. Now, I propose for a short time to turn my attention to my hon. friend, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. McLelan). That gentleman, when addressing the House the other night, I thought, might have spared us his reference to speeches previously made, because his statement was contrary to the facts. Gentlemen on this side look cheery and pleasant, and when they make speeches make them in a pleasant manner. I do not think, under the circumstances, that the Minister should have referred to them in the way he did. He said:

"They have assumed a tone of sadness and depression; the hon. gentlemen who sit opposite seem to be acting in a spirit of rivalry as to who shall present the condition of the country in the most sad and doleful colors possible. There seems to be a rivalry among them in the spirit of that which may be supposed to exist amongst undertakers."

And so he goes on. Well, I have heard a great many speeches delivered in this House, and I have heard a great many delivered elsewhere, and I must say, that a more doleful speech, a speech uttered in more dolorous tones, I never heard either in this House or out of it, than that which came from the mouth of the Minister for Marine and Fisheries that day. He looked at the Finance Minister as if he would like to bury him, because the latter had got him into the uncomfortable position of being obliged to make a speech and go back on the views he had so often and so strongly expressed in days gone by. When my mind carries me back to the old anti-confederate debates, I remember that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries—well I do not know whether it was he, but there was a Mr. McLelan in the Local House of Nova Scotia, and that Mr. McLelan took a leading part in opposition to Confederation. He made a great many strong statements then, as he always does, when he warms up to his subject. He generally prepares his speeches in such a way that his views are strongly expressed, and his language is very emphatic; but on all those occasions he almost excelled himself. I will read a few extracts from that hon. gentleman's speech, which, I think, will show that he has changed his mind somewhat in regard to what should be the proper trade policy for the Province of Nova Scotia at least. Mr. McLelan at that time objected to Confederation, because, in the first place, the Provinces were so disunited and their interests so different, that it would be impossible to form a Confederation in which the Maritime Provinces would be sufficiently protected; in the next place he objected to Confederation because Ontario being a very weak country and not able to defend itself, the militia of Nova Scotia would be brought up here to defend the people of Canada; he objected again to Confederation because the people of Canada were a very extravagant