

expenditure would be laid before the House in good time. The Government, however, were not responsible for that expenditure, as the work had been initiated before they came into office, and it was their duty to carry it out. He expressed the opinion that the acceptance of the lowest tender upon public works was neither safe nor judicious, and had always been found to result in a greater expenditure to the country in the end than had one been taken which would have appeared from the first just to both parties, and sufficient to enable the contractor to finish his work successfully. In proof, he instanced the contracts for the Belleville and Brantford Asylums, which had cost a great deal more in the end than if higher tenders had at first been accepted. The hon. gentleman had spoken of interference by the Commissioner of Public Works with the workmen on the Central Prison works, during the late election to the Dominion House in West Toronto, and had stated that he (Mr. McKellar) had gone about among the men, and tried to use the foremen as instruments to secure votes for Mr. Moss. In proof, he had referred to an affidavit which appeared in the papers the other day, to the effect that the person whose signature was attached had seen the Commissioner speaking to the foremen, and although he did not hear what he said, he believed that he was trying to get them to influence the votes of the men. (Laughter.) Now, that this man should have seen the Commissioner speaking to the foremen, although he did not hear what he was saying, was most conclusive evidence to the mind of the hon. gentleman that the Commissioner was trying to get them to influence the votes of the men. (Loud laughter.) He had not been to the Central Prison Works since the day the hurricane had blown a portion of the wall down, nor did he remember having seen or spoken to any of the foremen since. (Hear, hear.) Nor had he ever spoken to any of the foremen, nor yet to any of the men, as to how they should or should not vote in that election. (Cheers.)

Mr. LAUDER—Affidavit. (Ironical cries of Hear, hear)

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR said he challenged the hon. gentleman to the investigation. (Cheers.) He felt pained that any member of this House should get up, and upon such evidence as this make such a charge. He would have been surprised had any other member than the member for South Grey done so. (Cheers and laughter.) What a splendid legal mind it exhibited in the hon. member for South Grey to charge him with interfering in the election, because a man swore that he had seen him speak to the foremen, but did not hear what he said. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. LAUDER said he had never charged the Commissioner of Public Works with interfering directly in the elections. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR again challenged the hon. member to move for a Committee, and he would further venture to state that none of the foremen interfered with their men. (Cheers.) And he had not personally asked any gentleman connected with the department, either out of the building or within it, to vote one way or another. (Loud cheers.) If there was any one thing more contemptible than another, it was for a man with any authority to attempt to coerce any man under him in the matter of the franchise. (Cheers.) He for one would never be guilty of it. (Loud cheers.) He had carried the principle out in his capacity of a private individual, he had carried it out in his public capacity up to this time, and he would always do so in the future. (Cheers.) Then as to the statement of revenue and expenditure which had been prepared, it was a source of intense annoyance to the hon. member for South Grey. It endeavoured to lay facts before the electors of this country, and it was this endeavour upon all occasions to tell the truth in regard to these matters to which he (Mr. McKellar) owed whatever influence he had among his fellow-countrymen. (Loud cheers.) Honesty and truth were quite as much the correct policy in politics as in private business. (Hear, hear.) Although the Government were defeated in South Simcoe, they had been able to reduce the majority against them very considerably; and while bearing testimony to the superior character of the electors of that Riding, both mentally and physically, he predicted that it would be one of the strongest Reform constituencies in this Province in less than five years. He had a perfect right to have the statement referred to by the hon. gentleman prepared, and was ready to vouch for its correctness in every

particular.

Mr. LAUDER raised a point of order. He had himself been ruled out of order for referring to this paper at all, and the hon. gentleman was now commenting upon the same paper.

Mr. SPEAKER ruled that when a debate had gone on irregularly for some time, the other side had a right to reply.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR said he had only referred to it because the hon. gentleman's statements concerning it would, in the meantime, create a false impression concerning it. He had as a matter of fact had that document prepared; he submitted it to the people; and he did not think there was anything wrong in it. It was merely placing facts before them as opposed to the fast and loose statements upon the subject made by the hon. member for South Grey. (Hear, hear.) He did not mean to discuss the Central Prison matter with the hon. member just now, but would take the opportunity to do so when the papers were brought down, and he could do it intelligently. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. FRASER said he would remind the hon. member for South Grey that the greater portion of the papers for which he asked had been brought down last session. They included all the papers down to February, 1873. He thought the hon. member did not want these again.

Mr. LAUDER said there had been other correspondence since that time, which he required. What had formerly been brought down was not necessary upon this occasion.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said it was evident the hon. member had very little of the public interest at heart when he made his motion, and there were just three things which he desired to accomplish. The first was to attack the Minister of Public Works, which he never lost an opportunity of doing, and in doing which he never failed to introduce Proton. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. LAUDER—I intend to introduce that every time.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said he hoped he would, because otherwise the hon. gentleman would never be able to make another speech. (Laughter.) The second thing he wanted particularly to do was to air the particular grievances of the contractor, who was a friend of the hon. member. The third and last was to endeavour, if possible, to soothe down the little ruffling he got in West Toronto. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He did not intend to follow the hon. gentleman through Proton and West Toronto, but he would allude shortly to some of his remarks. The hon. gentleman should be the last to refer to the use of public documents at elections, for the last time he went to South Grey for election, a statement bearing the signature of the Commissioner of Crown Lands had been put in the hands of the electors there. The difference between the two statements, however, was this:—The statement laid before the electors of South Simcoe was true in its minutest details, while the other was a gross misrepresentation of the facts. (Loud cheers.) The hon. gentleman had told the electors of South Simcoe that \$125,000 had been voted and put in the estimates for the purpose of putting another wing to the Crown Lands Department, while he knew at the time that it was only \$25,000.

Mr. LAUDER called the hon. gentleman to order. He had no right to say that any hon. gentleman made a statement which he knew to be untrue. He could tell the hon. gentleman that the votes and proceedings bore out the statement that the amount was \$125,000.

Hon. Mr. FRASER would like to know what the hon. gentleman objected to. If the hon. gentleman had stated for a fact that the sum was \$125,000, he was stating what was untrue; if he did not know any better, he at least ought to have known, and had no right to make an authoritative statement while he was in ignorance of the facts. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman could take which horn of the dilemma he pleased. The hon. gentleman had started by saying that the Central Prison was a legacy left the present Government by their predecessors, but he had forgot to mention that fact to the workmen of West Toronto, when he told them it was a scheme which would take away their bread from them, and was offering a premium upon crime. He forgot to tell the people of West Toronto that he had himself been one of the most earnest advocates of the scheme, and had recorded his vote in its favour. (Hear, hear.) The quondam leader of the hon. gentleman—Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald—had proposed that there should be three central