

moments to the heads of expenditure. In the management of the departments there must be a great deal of looseness, because if the chiefs of these departments exercised a proper supervision over their officers, such a large increase could not have taken place in the item of stationery. There were other increases which gave clear evidence of similar mismanagement, and he would give a comparative statement, showing the amounts under the different heads which had been expended during the last two years of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's Government, and the first two under a so called Reform Government. For furniture, furnishings, carpets, &c., in 1870, the expenditure was \$627 24; in 1871, \$912 52; in 1872, \$6,566 84; in 1873, \$10,934 64. (Hear, hear.) He said that under the head of advertising, which was, of course, a pure expenditure amongst papers friendly to hon. gentlemen, there was also a very extraordinary increase. In 1870, the amount was \$3,646 37; in 1871, \$5,630 13; in 1872, \$11,127 65 (hear, hear); and in 1873, the amount, although much less than the previous year, was \$7,526 10. Under the head of stationery,

books, and pictures, the expenditures for the different years were as follows:—1870, \$1,980 51; 1871, \$6,451 22; 1872, \$22,495 20. (Hear, hear.) Of course the item of \$10,000 to the library had to be deducted from that. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Still, taking that amount off, the expenditure was double what it was in 1871, and again in 1873 the Government kept up the same play, the total expenditure being \$19,760 31. There were, of course, included in that the money paid for a good many chromos, photographs, and paintings.

Hon. Mr. FRASER wished to know whether the hon. gentleman asserted that there were any expenditures for chromos in 1873?

Mr. LAUDER said there were photographs. He pointed out that there were also \$500 expended for advertisements from the Crown Lands Office. He would like to know whether hon. gentlemen were prepared to defend these expenditures or not, and he would like some explanation of the extraordinary amount of stationery that was spent, independent altogether of the allowance given to members. He concluded by complaining of the expenditure under the head of paintings, photographs, books, and stationery.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR said he had heard the statements made by the hon. member for South Grey several times before. When he had met the hon. gentleman in the country, and he entered upon these statements, he (Mr. McKellar) brought him to book, and made his objections disappear. He (Mr. McKellar) proceeded to show that the item for cab hire for his department during the year was only \$31. In 1872 the cab hire for this department amounted to \$23, and in 1871 \$33. One year previously, when the Sandfield Macdonald Government was in power, the cab hire of the department was \$15. The hon. gentleman knew when he was making the statement that the cabs had not been hired for his (Mr. McKellar's) personal use, but for the officers of the department. He found, in a document issued by hon. gentlemen opposite, a statement to the effect that the salaries had been increased something like \$35,000. By reference to the Public Accounts he found the actual increase in the salaries was not \$35,000, but about \$15,000. The statements the hon. gentleman had just made were as far from being correct as were the statements he had made before. The whole cry of hon. gentlemen in the House and out of the House was the increase of the expenditure, but the Government would challenge hon. gentlemen to point out one item where they had expended a single dollar unnecessarily, or that was not in the interest of the people. He considered it was very wrong and unfair for hon. gentlemen, for the sake of making a little capital outside the House, to make statements not borne out by the records of the House. The chromos, the cost of which was complained of, were obtained by hon. gentlemen's own Speaker. What the present Government bought they recorded openly and above board, and every one who looked at the Public Accounts would see this was so. He challenged hon. gentlemen to point to a single item of furniture that was not required which could not be found in its place, and which was not entered properly in the Public Accounts. The Government were anxious that the Public Accounts should be rigidly scrutinized. They thought the public should have the fullest and clearest statements under every head, and endeavoured to carry out their ideas in this respect as fully as possible. He maintained that the increase of revenue since the Sandfield Macdonald Government was greater than the increase of expendi-

ture.

Mr. BETHUNE considered that charges such as were made by hon. gentlemen were detrimental to the public service. He showed that the charges for cab fare were not extravagant; and stated that the item of stationery with reference to the Court of Chancery was rendered large from the fact that twice as much writing was done in that Court as in any of the other Courts. In fact, the writing necessary in the Court of Chancery was double that done in all the other Law Courts. He reminded hon. gentlemen opposite that the money expended on the chromos was ordered by the Speaker of the former Administration, and deprecated the bend the discussion had taken.

Mr. M. C. CAMERON did not consider the figures and observations of the hon. member for South Grey should have been received in the manner they were by the Commissioner of Public Works. He could not understand why the newspaper accounts should be so far in excess of what they were under the Sandfield Macdonald Government. The correctness of the figures produced by the hon. member for South Grey must be credited, if no attempt were made to refute them, and he (Mr. Cameron) had no doubt that they would have further disclosures with regard to the extravagance of the Government.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said it had been observed that the hon. member for South Grey was good at figures. He admitted that he was, if he only had some one to correct him. It would be within the recollection of hon. gentlemen that the hon. member for South Grey had stated that \$125,000 had been appropriated for a particular purpose, when, as a matter of fact, the Government only took \$25,000 for that same purpose. He had also stated that the Government had exceeded the appropriation for emigration purposes by \$50,000, when the Government had only exceeded it by \$5,000. He had also stated that 32 persons were employed as emigration agents, when it was plain not more than 14 or 15 had been employed. He (Mr. Fraser) then entered upon an analysis of the portion of the public works relating to emigration agents, and showed that not more than 15 emigration agents were employed. He asked, if the hon. gentleman wanted to compare the items of furniture purchased by the Sandfield Macdonald Government and the present Government, why he did not compare the first and second years of the two Administrations? Did hon. gentlemen think the carpets and furniture were never to wear out? The money that had been expended was for renewals and necessary renewals. A committee room had been furnished for the benefit of members, and the fire-furnishing of the smoking room and reception room had also taken place during the recess, and had necessarily made the expenditure in this respect very heavy this year. The Government should not be held responsible for the expense of the chromos ordered by Hon. Mr. Scott, the Speaker of the late Administration, but he did not believe the people would desire that the walls of the rooms of the heads of departments should be bare. The hon. gentleman had placed together stationery, books, and pictures, but the sting was in the pictures. He knew it would be no use to refer to the small amount of the cost of the pictures, but was compelled, to give the statement effect, to tack it on to the large amount for salary. The business in the departments had materially increased lately, and this, of course, had increased the demand for stationery. In his own department, the correspondence and other work had greatly increased, and he assured the House there was no extravagance in stationery. The advertising had been greatly increased by the timber limit sales, and the numerous public works going on. The cab hire had not been for the personal gratification of the heads of the departments, but for the use of officers of the departments. He maintained that the items of cab hire in connection with the various departments were remarkably small, and would compare favourably with similar expenditures by the late Government.

It being six o'clock the House rose for recess.

After recess,

Hon. Mr. FRASER resumed the debate, and corrected the published report that the hon. Commissioner of Public Works had said he thought it would be better to do away with the system of advertising for tenders altogether. What the Commissioner had said was, that in some cases it was better not to wait to advertise. With regard to the contract given to the firm of Dickey, Neill & Company on the