

glad his hon. friend had at last come to frankly admit that there was a surplus to distribute. (Hear, hear.) The Government had been constantly accused of wasting the surplus, and they were told now that they should continue to waste the rest in the same way. (Cheers.)

Mr. LAUDER—I did not hear the leader of the Opposition say anything of the kind.

Mr. FRASER—Why, they have begun to repudiate their leader already—I knew they would do so. (Cheers and laughter.) The hon. member for East Grey was as usual a little bumptious. One would have thought, however, that he would have been a little more aggressive since the great victory of the 17th September. The hon. member for East Toronto could bring the latest tidings from the field. (Hear, hear.) He could tell whether the ides of December were as propitious as the ides of September. (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. MEREDITH—The hon. gentleman was in East Toronto.

Mr. FRASER—Yes, and I expect to be in a good many more before the elections are over. (Cheers) The hon. member for East Toronto could tell that a majority of 909, although he conducted the election on strict party grounds, and although he had the benefit of the "National Policy," had come down to the poor figure of fifty, and he scarcely knew that he even had that. (Laughter.) Hon. members opposite had based much of their discussion upon Senator Macpherson's pamphlet, which had brought various charges against the Government. If the Opposition had any charges to bring against them, why did they not formulate them openly on the floor of the House, where they could be investigated? (Hear, hear.) Should the House begin to take notice of every pamphlet or newspaper that made charges, and wanted to leave them to the arbitrament of this or that or the other bank manager, they would be going outside of their duty, and there would be no end to the matter. Still, he proposed to make one or two remarks with reference to this pamphlet. The writer's general charge was that the Government had been extravagant, and he tried to prove it in the old schoolboy fashion, that because so much was expended in one year and so much in another, therefore the increase showed extravagance. The proper way was to ask how the difference had been expended, and if there had been anything wrong in the expenditure it was the duty of the Opposition to find it out, and to have placed their objections on record. This pamphlet professed to give something entirely new, and it chose to speak in belittling terms of the members of the Government. They were called "pigmies," who would never have been heard of but for their positions in this House. If that epithet applied to them, how much more did it apply to hon. gentlemen opposite, who had been sitting opposite to "pigmies" for four years without being able to make the discovery made in the pamphlet. (Cheers.) It was not only an insult to the House but to the people of the Province, who had sent for two successive terms political "pigmies" to this House to govern them, and so the other side of the House was worse than pigmies. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But the statements of the pamphlet were not true. Hon. gentlemen opposite had criticized intelligently the Government's policy, and had ably debated the various questions that came before the House. Now, he would show that the reductions sought to be made by the Opposition were exceedingly small. In 1872 the total amount by which they proposed to reduce the estimated expenditure was the enormous and magnificent sum of \$500.

Mr. MERRICK—What about hospitals and charities in 1872?

Mr. FRASER read the resolution proposed by the Opposition on that subject, showing that it complained of certain increases, but did not propose any specific reduction. In the session of 1873 the total estimated expenditure was, in round numbers, \$3,000,000, without including sums voted for railway aid, for the purposes of surplus distribution, or for drainage. Out of the \$3,000,000, by sixteen different motions, the Opposition proposed to reduce the estimates by the sum of \$135,000. Out of that sum \$96,000 was for the Ottawa Normal School. For that reduction he (Mr. Fraser) himself voted, on the ground that the school should be located at some smaller centre of popu-

lation. Taking away that sum a balance of \$39,000 was left, by which the Opposition proposed to reduce the estimates of that year. He entered into the details of the proposed reductions, and said that the sum of \$14,000 was the entire sum by which in reality the estimates of that year were proposed to be reduced. 1873 was the year in which they had made their best stand, and in every subsequent year the amounts proposed to be struck out were very trifling. In 1874, they asked that the estimates be reduced by \$16,690, but they also made a motion for the payment of criminal witnesses which would have cost about \$30,000. In 1875, or the second session of 1874, dealing with the estimates of 1875, the total decrease proposed by the Opposition was \$12,050, while they again proposed an increase of \$30,000 for the payment of criminal witnesses. Taking the first session of the present Parliament, the Opposition proposed to reduce the estimates by the sum of \$61,000. In that year they did not ask to have a single salary reduced, or a single item with regard to contingencies lessened. In 1877, out of an estimated expenditure of about \$2,500,000 they proposed an entire reduction of \$75,000, \$27,300 of that sum being for colonization roads, \$10,000 for the Agricultural College, and \$30,000 for unforeseen and unprovided expenditure. In the second session of the present Parliament the Opposition asked to have but one salary struck off, and that amounting to only \$2,050. (Hear, hear.) In 1878, the amount by which the estimates were proposed to be reduced by the Opposition was about \$50,000. That sum included the sum of \$39,000 for unforeseen and unprovided, and proposals were made looking to the reduction of only two salaries. That was the total work of gentlemen opposite. With all their resolute determination to find fault with the present Government, they who ought to know, if they did not, all about the administration of the Province in the way of expenditure, had not been able to propose any but the most trifling reductions. Such a state of things proved out of the mouths of the Opposition that the Government had not been extravagant. (Hear, hear.) They could not have been extravagant, else they would have been condemned by the Opposition. He had no doubt that during the present session the House would be flooded by resolutions which hon. gentlemen opposite would bring forward in order to make a record with which to go before the country. It was exceedingly easy to make such motions in Opposition, when the men who made them stood in no danger of being called to account for their result. We had heard more about depression during the past year than ever before in the Dominion. He would like to know what justification there would be for a rich and prosperous Province like Ontario, which had been able to take six millions out of its treasury and spend it in aid of municipal improvements, of railway extension, and of drainage, to undertake to reduce the official salary of any man in the service if he was earning his money. (Hear, hear.) He could well understand a man who was passing through a period of hardships reducing the salaries of his employees; but it would be a monstrous thing for this Province, which had never seen a day of financial difficulty, and was rich and prosperous, and could well afford to pay—(hear, hear)—to take money out of the hands of men who in these times of depression had great difficulty in making both ends meet. (Hear, hear.) If there were little means among the people, was it the proper thing for the Government to cut down the salaries of employees, or was it proper to leave them where they were, if the men were earning their wage? (Cheers.) Hon. gentlemen opposite spoke as if they thought the Government should take money from public servants in order to add to the surplus, and then keep it locked up without using it. Many of these officials, too, were appointed by a Conservative Government, and probably if the present Government had decreased their salaries they would have been accused of being actuated by political animosity. And in the course they had taken they had the approval of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's Government, which went to the country with the declaration that they intended to increase the salaries of officials. He went on to show that in 1871 the only public institutions to be administered by the Government were two asylums—one at