

resolutions. The Opposition had a right to move any resolution they pleased. The proper time to bring in such a motion as this was before going into Committee of Supply. In the event of a change of Government gentlemen opposite would do the same thing. The question is whether the increases which had taken place could continue or not. The Premier had admitted that part of the expenditure was not necessary, the only unavoidable ones being for legislation, civil government, and administration of justice. The Treasurer, in specifying what had been given back to the people, forgot to mention what had been spent on the House itself. The reason given for spending what was not unavoidable was that the country had it to spend. Direct taxation was, as stated in the resolution, inevitable.

Mr. GIBSON—When?

Mr. MORRIS—At a time not far distant. The surplus accumulated by the Sandfield Macdonald Government had largely melted away, and in three or four years, if direct taxation was to be avoided, borrowing would have to be resorted to. The Treasurer had in his budget speech not included the whole of the expenditure of 1878. He placed the deficit for the year at \$154,000. The expenditure on special funds had not been included. The actual expenditure of 1878 over receipts was \$647,966.

Mr. WOOD—Do these special expenditures diminish the surplus?

Mr. MORRIS—The expenditure has encroached on the capital of the Province to the extent of nearly half a million of dollars. The ordinary expenditure for 1878 was \$2,058,393, and for 1871 was \$1,223,000, an increase of \$835,000. The time had come for taking stock of the affairs of the Province. The Government had been compelled to borrow \$300,000 last year to tide over difficulties. The situation was a grave one, and the necessity for a remedy was urgent. Mr. Morris concluded his speech with a reference to the letter written by the Minister of Education to his constituents in South Oxford. The Government had thrown down the gauntlet and expected the people to sustain them, not on their merits, but in order to afford help to the weak Opposition at Ottawa.

Mr. MEREDITH wished to make a personal explanation about the charge of "cooking" accounts. He denied the imputation of intent to deceive. The Saguenay fire expenditure was exceptional in 1871. The special expenditure for the general election in 1871 was also exceptional. The expenditure for immigration deducted in 1878 was all in favour of the Government. The municipalities' fund and land improvement fund should not have been deducted in 1878, and were properly deducted in 1871.

Mr. CROOKS rose to a point of order, that Mr. Meredith was entering into a general argument under cover of a personal explanation.

Mr. LAUDER then took up some time in discussing a few items of expenditure to which the Opposition had taken exception in bygone years, one of which was the sum of \$1,045 for carpeting the rooms of the Warden in the Central Prison.

Mr. FRASEB briefly explained that this item had been investigated by the Public Accounts Committee at the instance of Mr. M. C. Cameron, who had abandoned it as soon as he found the plan of his own Government had been followed, and had never subsequently referred to it. The carpet had cost a dollar a yard, and the large total cost was due entirely to the size of the rooms, which were fewer in number than was originally contemplated, and were constructed according to the original plan of the Sandfield Macdonald Government. This was a fair specimen of the charges made by the member for East Grey.

The motion of Mr. Meredith was then put and lost on a division by 45 to 31.

The House then went into Committee, but at the request of Mr. Meredith did not proceed with the second item in the Estimates, that for the office of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Returns were laid on the table of the amount of money invested under the Tile Drainage Act and of the Order in Council respecting the transfer of the Trent River works from the Dominion of Canada to the