

dangerous position to find the money necessary for carrying on the business of the country. The amount of interest that we have to pay on our national debt has increased to about \$102,000,000. We have also to pay a large sum in pensions, which has increased since the figures were given by the Minister of Finance in introducing the Budget, and which is liable to increase still further. I think the figure which he estimated for pensions at that time was some \$30,000,000; but since then we have passed a Pensions Bill which, I understand, increases considerably the rates of pension that are to be paid in the various cases. We did not obtain information showing what would be the amount of those increases for this year, but I think that they will mean a considerable addition to the total. Therefore the expenditure will, I feel, be increased by even more than the figures which I have just given to the House. This condition of things makes it very necessary for the whole country to consider very carefully the position in which we are liable to be placed unless we take very strong measures to curtail in every possible way expenses that are not absolutely justified. In order to meet such a situation we should see that all the money we do spend shall be spent along the lines of promoting the production and development of the country, and very drastic steps should be taken to prevent waste in the administration of the country's affairs. I feel that there is great danger resulting from the way in which we have been dealing with our financial affairs for some years past owing to our desire that everything we had to do should be done with the object of winning the war, we have not given as much care to seeing how our money has been spent and whether we were getting a proper return for it.

I noticed the other day that in England a Committee on National Expenditure had been appointed to inquire very carefully into the whole expenditure of the Government also to see that the large quantity of material and supplies that were left over when the war ended and that were no longer of use should be disposed of to the best advantage and with as little waste as possible. Serious revelations have been made over there, and it would be wise for us in Canada to consider whether a similar condition of things may not possibly exist here. The committee in England has recommended very strongly that the Treasury should take steps to obtain a greater control

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over the various departments than has been exercised for some time past. The committee has even gone so far as to suggest that it would be advisable for the Treasury to appoint an officer to be placed in each department to see that the money is properly expended and that waste is prevented as much as possible. I do not know that we in Canada are in exactly the same position. At the same time, I think that we should consider very carefully this question of expenditure and waste, and that the Finance Department should endeavour to have the whole expenditure of the Government handled to the best advantage and with as little waste as possible. As I have already said, the only way in which we can hope to meet our present enormous expenditure is by doing everything that we possibly can to promote the production of the country and to prevent waste.

Hon. J. G. TURRIFF: Honourable gentlemen, at this last sitting of the Senate it is not my intention to take up any time in making a speech; but I want to say again that I think the amount of money being voted for expenditure, under present conditions, is absolutely uncalled for and absurd. We are voting and spending over \$700,000,000, whereas our revenue is only \$280,000,000. I object particularly to the item of \$10,000,000 for further shipbuilding: we have not the money and must borrow it. Ships are being built as quickly as possible, and there will before very long be any number of ships available. I do not think the proposed shipbuilding programme is necessary for the sake of finding employment. Where ships are being built is where the most labour trouble exists.

For the Civil Service we voted \$2,500,000 a little while ago, and to-day we are voting \$10,000,000 more. I am not going to say that the civil servants, or any of them, are not entitled to a bonus; but I say that the departments are overmanned, practically every one of them, and many of them 33 per cent overmanned, and the Government is not taking the necessary steps to reduce the number of employees to what is necessary. A business firm doing the same amount of work would do it with half the staff. We are voting \$12,500,000 this session for bonuses.

Where are we going to land? Where are we going to get the money? It depends on production. I am sorry to say that reports from the West are just as bad as bad can be. The prospects are worse than they