

Toronto, and we are told, in criticism of this expenditure, that no inconsiderable sum voted for that purpose was spent last year in building boulevards and parks in that city. If that statement is correct the money spent for such a purpose was an unwise expenditure. On the other hand, any expenditure for properly building up the port of Toronto I should say was a wise expenditure for which neither the present government nor their predecessors should be criticized.

Turning our attention to the Pacific we find that a large sum of money has been spent in Vancouver during the past few years. I had the pleasure of visiting that city two years ago, and of visiting it again this year, and I want to say that it is one of the principal cities in Canada. It is a city that every Canadian should be proud of, and not simply the people who live in its immediate vicinity. The port of Vancouver in my opinion is, in the near future, going to equal the city of Montreal—no, I should not say that, but it will go a great length in that direction; and I admit that any moneys spent by this government, or any other government, for the development of that port is in the best interests of Canada. I heard my hon. friend from Skeena (Mr. Stork) speak of Prince Rupert and he extolled that port very highly. The port is certainly an excellent one, and I am told is 600 miles nearer the Orient than Vancouver. In the port of Prince Rupert there is one of the best drydocks in the world, and a drydock which is not being used either by the general shipping of Canada, or by the government vessels when they need to be hauled out and repaired.

I find that in the city of Victoria a sum of four or five million dollars is to be spent on a drydock. Now, I have nothing to say against that city, and I congratulate the hon. member who represents it upon getting such a large sum of money voted; but I am doubtful, Sir, of the wisdom of such a vote in view of the splendid dock to be found at Prince Rupert. I doubt whether the late administration, or the present government is justified in expending such a large amount of money for such a purpose in the city of Victoria in view of existing accommodation, the huge burden of public debt and the tremendous amount of money we have to pay in the form of interest and for other purposes.

For example during the war there was expended for what was termed naval expenditure and which was almost entirely unnecessary the sum of \$30,000,000. This amount was practically wasted; no benefits whatever were derived from the expenditure. Before I

[Mr. Duff].

came to Ottawa I went through the dockyard in the city of Halifax. Some of the citizens of Halifax called my attention to the great quantity of stores that was to be found in that dockyard. In order to convince myself of the truthfulness of the statements of these gentlemen I went down and inspected the dockyard and I now make this statement: Whoever are responsible for the great quantity of stores in that dockyard—whether it is the officials of the Naval department under the present government or under the last government—are not fit to continue to hold any office of public trust in this country. Would you believe me, Sir, when I tell you that there is almost enough rope in store in the dockyard of Halifax to reach practically all round the world, and that, too, notwithstanding the fact that within half a mile of the dockyard, in the city of Dartmouth, rope works exist where supplies could be purchased whenever needed, and at very short notice. Well, some official, at the instance of some government, deliberately purchased from some friends sufficient rope to fit out the entire British navy, the vessels of the Canadian government merchant marine and all the shipping that will come to Halifax for the next twenty-five years. Worse than that, there is enough wire rope in that dockyard to rig practically every ship in Canada. Furthermore there are 800 suits of oilclothes hanging up in an upper attic. These are practically burnt and will not be fit for use. Permit me to mention that the dockyard stores contain these among other items—7 tons of pepper; 1,300 dozen teaspoons; 1,500 dozen tablespoons; also knives, forks, teapots, and soup tureens—everything you can think of. I went into one branch and inquired "What is in those boxes?" I received the reply "They contain black ink". I inquired "How much is there?" They said "One hundred and forty boxes of ink, twelve quarts each." Now here every day we have to ask a messenger to go and get us a bottle of ink, and yet in the Halifax dockyard there is enough ink to keep the members of parliament supplied for the next five years. This affords some idea of the wasteful expenditure which has gone on. It is about time the present government set to work and sold at auction or otherwise the great quantity of stores in the Halifax dockyard.

There is another item, and a very big one which goes to make up our public debt on which such a large sum of interest is payable at the present time, and that is the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which cost the tax payers of this country some \$80,000,000. This money should never