

questions of figures and financial statements interesting to a general audience, even though your experience for so many years as a prominent member of the bar has given you a facility of expression which I do not pretend to have or ever can acquire, but, Sir, I can assure you and this House that so far as I am able, my statements shall be clear, concise and reliable, and will, I hope, place matters in their true light before this House and the country. (Cheers.)

I hold, Mr. Speaker, that on an occasion of this kind it is my duty to explain things just as they are, to show the dark side of the picture as well as the bright side. We must find out the nature and extent of a disease in order to be able to apply the proper remedy, and although it may not be pleasant at all times to refer to disagreeable matters, still I take it this House wants the true position of affairs to be given, and this I will attempt to do.

THE PEOPLE AND TAXATION.

There is no disguising the fact that our Province, financially, is not what we would all like it to be. That we need the closest attention to our finances in order that they may be kept at all what they ought to be, is evident to every one. Our revenue, to say the least, is not increasing much, and in some branches, must, in the nature of things and from circumstances which are beyond our control, be seriously lessened before long. The state of public opinion in this Province is such that it is almost impossible to collect what is honestly due the Crown, from the fact that a great part of our people have not been accustomed to contribute towards Government expenditure, but, on the contrary, have been accustomed to rely upon the Government for assistance for purely local objects, which should have been found from local sources. On the other hand, it requires almost superhuman efforts to keep the expenditure for so called public purposes within proper bounds, and the fact is patent that all governments are expending more largely from year to year. I do not say in all cases unduly or improperly, but the business of most countries is increasing rapidly, and requires more supervision and more