

on a matter of this kind and try and work out some arrangement for reducing the expenditure under this head. I know it is very difficult for any government to attempt to reform the civil service. In fact, it is almost saying good-bye to office to do so. At the same time, I believe we are all sufficiently in earnest on this question to get together and try and do something to reduce the cost of carrying on the business of this country.

There must be no return to patronage. Since becoming a member of parliament, I have thanked my stars time and again that there was a Civil Service Commission. We want no return to the old order of things.

We are promised a measure of redistribution. That matter will be taken up in a way that I think will be satisfactory to all sections of the House.

Just a word in regard to our national status. I do not intend to take up any time in dealing with this matter at this particular moment, but I would like to say here, that I like to count myself a loyal citizen of the British Empire. I am proud of that connection, and I hope that nothing will ever occur to make me feel less proud of it. At the same time, I agree with the steps that were taken by the Prime Minister and with his government's reply to the telegram that was sent from the Prime Minister of Great Britain last fall. I agree with the position that the government took at that time. I hope that whatever measures may be taken, nothing will be done to retard the progress of Canada as a nation controlling her own destinies within the British Empire.

In conclusion, I would make a few recommendations:

Trade. I would say, increase trade by the removal of trade barriers, and increase the British preference.

Unemployment. I would encourage the industries where unemployment does not exist to-day—agriculture, etc.

Railways. I would give Sir Henry Thornton a fair trial, and in so far as possible, give government business to the government railways.

Great Lakes freight rates. Speed up the investigation, and make it a real one.

Anti-trust bill. It would not be necessary to find a cure if prevention were exercised, and the best prevention is to take away the tariff on which combines, trusts and mergers flourish. Every industry needing protection should be made to prove it. This would eliminate profiteering of this kind.

Immigration. The best immigrant that ever comes to Canada is the one which the

stork brings to the Canadian home. We should study how to keep at home those we already have. Secondly, we should see that there is a job awaiting every immigrant. If there is no job, then no immigrant. There are plenty of jobs at the present time for agricultural workers.

The Bank Act. This needs careful study, not from the banker's standpoint, but from the people's standpoint. I am going to give all the encouragement I can in that line of business.

Redistribution. I should like to see a measure of proportional representation applied to the urban centres, as a trial.

Vimy Ridge Monument. I am glad that the French government has made a present of 250 acres to the Dominion government upon which a monument is to be erected. Putting up a great monument to the dead is doing what is right. But while we remember those who gave up their all, let us not forget the living who may need our attention.

International agreements. These should be in accord with the national and individual conscience. The Golden Rule might well be applied in an international sense. I believe Canada should stand by the League of Nations.

The Tariff. There is nothing in the Speech from the Throne on the most important matter of policy which has been before this country for the last forty or fifty years. We still demand further reductions on the necessities of life. Cheaper food and clothing are far more essential than cheaper ploughs and binders.

Civil Service. Fair warning—no tampering with the Civil Service Act. A return to patronage is unthinkable. If the Civil Service Act is not functioning properly, it is the fault of the personnel, and not of the Act itself.

Taxation. It is time that municipal, provincial and federal authorities learned to "cut the coat according to the cloth." There is too great a tendency to make estimates and then seek new ways and means of taxation to provide the money. For a change, why not approach the problem from the other angle?—Estimate what money can be raised without oppression, and readjust national expenditures to keep within those estimates.

National debt. No plan appears to be under consideration for the reduction of the national debt. An increase in last year of \$45,000,000 is a matter for some alarm, but the government appears to have no project under consideration whereby this staggering debt of