

—that the legislation which has been promised so abundantly in the Speech from the Throne may be prepared with due regard to the promotion of the best interests of Canada.

Hon. **RAOUL DANDURAND**: Honourable gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I join with my honourable friend opposite (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) in expressing our appreciation of the interesting speech delivered by the honourable member for Lambton (Hon. Mr. Pardee), a gentleman who has had a brilliant career in the other House, and who will continue to help us with his good advice and experience in this Chamber. With my honourable friend I welcome the honourable gentleman from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Coté) who has seconded the Address. He has given us a splendid picture of his own adopted Province, Alberta. He has told us of its prosperity and immense possibilities in natural resources, and I am sure that he, in conjunction with the other members who come from that province, will keep us well posted as to the needs of that part of the country.

My honourable friend who represents in this Chamber the Conservative thought of this country, although coming from the West, which seems to be tainted in some spots with radicalism has given satisfaction to those Conservative elements in the East that have been awaiting for some time a true leader representing a true and undiluted conservatism. I am always happy to hear him, because he has given thought to the many questions which come before us. He has had the responsibility of ministerial office, and he knows the difficulties of administering this country; and although he has not in his time brought about the millennium, he does not ask from his successors the same idealism which would bring us to that high level. He has indicated that the departments of the Government were started towards reorganization after the war, and has told us that the Printing Bureau and the Post Office Department were overhauled and that their personnel was reduced before his Government went out of office. Now he tells us in so many words that if he had remained at the helm with his friends, he would not have waited for the year 1923-24 to bring about a complete readjustment, but that his Government was fairly on the way to attain that object in 1921-22.

I would like to draw the attention of my honourable friend to the fact that in 1921-22 the total disbursements amounted to \$463,652,436; and that in the following year, which was under the care of the present Administration, the total expenditure was reduced to \$434,452,340, or by nearly \$30,000,000. I would also

draw my honourable friend's attention to the fact that the incoming Administration had to face an item of \$308,324,903 of uncontrollable expenditure, which leaves but the sum of \$126,127,437 of controllable expenditure.

If my honourable friend will bear that figure in mind, it will be easy for him to realize that in the compression of the budget we could not look beyond this controllable amount. What was the controllable expenditure in the few years which preceded the war? In 1910-11, if we deduct the uncontrollable expenditure, we find that the controllable expenditure was \$97,676,377; for 1911-12 it was \$106,696,920; for 1912-13 it was \$117,597,232; and for 1913-14 it was \$158,627,828. So in 1922-23, the present Government had reduced the controllable expenditure to \$126,127,437, which was well below the controllable expenditure of 1913-14.

But my honourable friend says we have not gone fast enough, that we have waited to be stirred by an aroused public opinion. I draw the attention of my honourable friend to the fact that to-day, after two years of administration, we are able to come before Parliament and make a statement which surprises not only this Chamber but the public at large, namely, that when this fiscal year is over we will have balanced the budget. This statement was so little expected that quite a number of honourable gentlemen around me and elsewhere can hardly believe it. Let them wait and see.

Hon. Sir **JAMES LOUGHEED**: Will you reduce taxation substantially, may I ask?

Hon. Mr. **DANDURAND**: We will; but we could not reduce taxation until we had balanced the budget.

Now, how do the Civil Service and the other services under the Crown in Canada stand to-day? The Civil Service stands with a reduction of 3,959 persons. That reduction has not been accomplished in a day.

Hon. Mr. **BELCOURT**: Compared with when?

Hon. Mr. **DANDURAND**: With the first of January, 1922. The reduction went on to a certain extent during the first year, and has been continuing to the present time. In speaking of this reduction, I am not referring to salaries, but merely to the number of individuals. I have asked to have produced before the Senate Committee statements of the personnel of the different Departments as of the first of July, 1910, 1914, 1918 and 1922, and we will later bring them up to 1924. The reduction which I have mentioned