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tuencies of the City of Montreal who would have been ready to sacrifice himself in the interests of the Province and to assume the duties of Provincial Treasurer. I cannot refrain from saying, however, that I think under all the conditions of our government and with the constant demands that are being made upon the Treasury of the Province, that the office of the Treasurer is well filled by the Minister who for the time being may be the leader of the Government.

For the second time I have to congratulate also the present Premier and Treasurer upon the excellent literary character of his budgetary statement which is worthy of his reputation as a gentleman so well known in literary circles, but I regret to find that his experience in office has rendered him rather more adroit in the handling of figures so as to make them conceal the true state of the finances than was the case at the time that he delivered his first Budget more than a year ago, and his skill in presenting them has further added to what I may term their deceptiveness.

The honorable gentleman has tried with all the skill of language of which he is a master, to make it appear that the present Government, with himself of course as its head and mouthpiece, has been a veritable Moses who, if he has not already succeeded in leading this Province out of a wilderness of financial difficulties, is very near the borders of that wilderness, and holds out hopes of a promised land of plenty and surpluses in which his followers will be able at no distant date to indulge themselves to their hearts content, and which will make amends for the privations and hardships which they are now undergoing.

It is true that a good deal of the wilderness has been created by the honorable gentleman and it is of course his duty as a prophet to make the hardships appear as acute and real as possible in order that when the relief, if it ever does come, will be correspondingly appreciated, and, if it does not come, that his followers will be then so accustomed, to going without manna that in course of time they will come to like it rather than otherwise.

I hope, however, to be able to shew that the honorable gentleman so far from escaping from the wilderness which his imagination has conjured up, is rather getting deeper back into it and that he will find at the end of one or to more years

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