

## APPENDIX No 1

issued by reputable people they naturally pay attention to them and they naturally wonder why:—

## “TO HIM WHO HATH SHALL BE GIVEN.”

During the period of the war, the Government of Canada has raised its revenue in two ways: First, by taxation, and secondly, by borrowing. And both methods, as applied by the federal Minister of Finance have reacted to the benefit of those who have been receiving special benefits from federal Governments in this country for forty years. Sir Thos. White, the Minister of Finance, who took office in 1911, as the direct result of selection by a certain group of erstwhile Liberals—manufacturers and banks—has proceeded in his fiscal administration, even during the war, to justify the fondest hopes of those powers which elected him. To them who already possessed much the Government of Canada undertook, through its fiscal policy, to give still more. The facts and figures of history will always show that even under the stress and trials of war, when upwards of 400,000 men were enlisted for Canada's cause in that war, the financial burden of it all was being borne by those people who were least able to bear it—by those indeed, whose men and bread-winners were employed in bearing arms against the Hun.

While the two other countries whose economic position can best be compared with that of Canada during the war—Great Britain and the United States—succeeded in applying their system of taxation directly upon that proportion of their populations most able to bear taxes, the Canadian Minister of Finance took the bulk of his revenue out of the great mass of the common people, by taxing the things they ate and wore and used for purposes of production.”

I would draw your special attention, sir, to the resolution which was adopted by the Great War Veterans in Vancouver, and which formed the basis of our representations before this committee. The brightest spot that we can look to in that resolution is that we were big enough, or tried to be big enough, to approach Canada with a proposal not as a demand for a specific sum of money, but a request for help for the purpose of re-establishment which was only to be governed by the country's ability to pay. I think, sir, that the reasonableness of that strain of language must impress you that it was our desire to approach this subject in a spirit which at least was consistent, and governed only by the country's ability to pay. We have never yet asked for one dollar, not a dollar. If the Minister of Finance had come to this committee and said “Gentlemen, this country cannot pay and the reasons that she cannot pay are as follows—all that we can offer you is a match-stick—why, sir, we will arbitrate on a match-stick if you will prove to us that that is the limit of the country's ability to pay. Nothing more reasonable than that could be said. We would not desire that Canada should be put into the position of giving us re-establishment that she would have been in had the Germans been victorious. Not at all. We are seeking the happiness and the stability and the prosperity of Canada, not its ruin. And whilst I am dwelling on our plan, sir, we have listened in this committee to three or four plans, all submitted to you in good faith, each one of them being submitted according to the lights of those who presented them; and I hope, sir, that each one will be considered by you on its merits. But when I remind you that the plan of the Great War Veterans is endorsed by their membership of over 200,000, and has been jointly endorsed by the Imperial Veterans of Canada, with a membership of over 50,000, and has been endorsed by the Army and Navy Veterans in Canada, with a membership, I think, also of over 50,000, and has also been endorsed by the Grand Army of Canada, whose membership runs into several thousands, I think, sir, that is running into close to 400,000 men; and when we know that the number of men that it is possible to return are 450,000 or 460,000, I think this Committee must admit that this plan has been endorsed by the majority vote, and that in so doing its application would meet with their unanimous approval.

[Mr. Geo. E. Waistell.]