

On page 387 of Hansard he is reported as saying:

Instead of the Government's asking for an expenditure of \$20,000,000 for public works, they might have asked for \$10,000,000 or less, and, if need be, they might have wiped out altogether expenditures for public works for the next fiscal year. I do not believe that the people of any province of Canada would have objected to the most drastic measures on the part of the Minister of Public Works during the present year and during the next fiscal year in connection with public works expenditure.

Then our hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) made this statement about the Civil Service:

We could reduce the number of officials, reduce them largely, and not interfere with the public service. We could cut the cost of public works in two and not interfere with the public service. . . . I understand that they are spending some \$15,000,000 or \$20,000,000 in Halifax. I venture the assertion that if the money was properly expended you could do all that is necessary for the development of trade in the city of Halifax for \$5,000,000.

I do not think the junior member for Halifax would agree that the work in Halifax could be completed for \$5,000,000. But what I want to point out is that we are to-day passing through perhaps the most critical period in the history of Canada. When we have thousands of men idle in the streets of most of our great cities, I claim that one of the most unpatriotic things that this Government could be guilty of would be to stop public works in this country or cut them down to such an extent as would limit the work that should be provided for the mechanics and labouring men of our cities. The hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) condemned public expenditure just as strongly as the junior member for Halifax.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I did not say that public works expenditure should be cut out; I said to reduce it to what it was in the year 1912 or 1911.

Mr. BRADBURY: The language I read is very plain, it is in Hansard. I do not know what the hon. gentleman meant to say, I am only quoting what he did say. The hon. member for St. John said that this was not a time to go on with large public works, while the people of this country were spending every dollar they had in charity. Mr. Speaker, the workingmen in this country do not want charity, the working men want work, and it is the duty of a patriotic Government, as far as possible, to give them that work. I think when the

hon. gentlemen face their constituents they will find it difficult to explain to them the language which they have used in this House as regards cutting out public works in this country, which meant, if it meant anything, that the public works should cease and thousands of men be thrown out of employment. Let us see what one of the outside leaders of this great party has to say about this question. I hold in my hand a clipping from the Toronto Globe, and every one who knows anything about the Liberal party recognizes that the editor of the Globe has a good deal to do with the leadership of the Liberal party.

The Globe is the mouthpiece of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House; in fact, its editor is looked upon as the outside leader. When there is any trouble in this House we generally find the editor of the Globe—

An hon. MEMBER: Reverend.

Mr. BRADBURY: The reverend editor of the Globe sitting in the gallery encouraging hon. gentlemen by his smiles, and perhaps even by his enthusiastic applause. Therefore I think I can refer to him as the outside leader, without being offensive. Here is what he said on the 10th of last month. The editorial is headed: "When to Spend Public Money," and is as follows:

The time to spend public money freely is when private enterprise is on the ebb. If governments and public bodies enter upon huge programmes of public works when a building boom and a rush of railway construction are in progress the inevitable result is to attract to the country far more workers than it can provide employment for under normal conditions, and so to intensify the depression which follows boom conditions.

This is precisely what is happening in Canada to-day. The Estimates introduced by the Minister of Finance make provision for carrying on public works begun in former years, but the financial situation is so difficult that practically no new works are to be begun during 1915 at the very time when the need for employment is greater than ever before in the experience of the building trades throughout Canadian cities.

It would be peanut politics to attempt to make party capital out of the situation. No Government in Canada, Liberal or Conservative, has ever deliberately curtailed expenditures upon public works in good times so that it might more freely provide employment during seasons of depression. In all probability this failure to take thought of the morrow has been the result of the belief of politicians that hard times dog their opponents only, and that the remedy may well be left for their opponents' consideration. The interests of the nation should be placed above party, however, and the Globe would like to see a healthy growth of public opinion in favour of husbanding the resources of the Dominion, the provinces, and the municipalities in boom periods so that public works may be undertaken at seasons of the greatest need. The