

of this country, is trying to move along, half-fed and half-clad, the country generally is to be stimulated by putting on more whip, more poverty, and more taxation. That indicates that it is not only a question of emergency, but a question of policy on the part of the Government, and that it is the old promise of adequate protection for the classes that are the favourites and pets of this Administration. I do not want any better evidence that that is the real kernel of the whole matter when, for the purposes of an election or for some political purpose, it is put into the speech of the hon. minister that this is a tariff for the purpose of stimulating Canadian industry. This is not the time when the poor people of this country should be taxed for the purpose of stimulating industries conducted by millionaires, who can very well put the money which they have hoarded up into their industries and stimulate them in a legitimate and proper way. They, however, will take good care to sit tight on the money they have hoarded up in the banks, and will ask the Government to go into the highways and byways, and collect from the poor people of this country the money that they have not got, and that they can ill-afford to pay in for purposes of this kind, however willing they may be, and however desirable they may regard that purpose from the standpoint of the present condition of affairs.

The best test of the financial condition of the country is the interest charges. How did the hon. Minister of Finance find this country as to expenditure and surpluses when he came into office? In 1911-12 he found an expenditure of \$87,000,000 and a surplus of \$39,000,000. To-day he finds himself with an income of something like \$120,000,000 and an expenditure of \$180,000,000, leaving a deficit of something like \$60,000,000. That tells its own story, and there has been a series of accidents and mismanagements which we would find it hard to believe, since hon. gentlemen opposite took charge of the affairs of the country. When the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier took office in 1896, the interest charges were \$10,000,000. After fifteen years of prosperity and successful administration, that Government in 1911 handed over the affairs of the country to its successors in office with interest charges of only \$12,000,000, an increase of only \$2,000,000 in fifteen years. That is at the rate of \$133,333 a year. The interest charges for 1915 will be \$21,500,000,

[Mr. McKenzie.]

an increase of \$9,500,000 within three years, or at the rate of \$3,166,000 a year. That shows the speed at which our friends opposite have been going and how impossible it has been to put a check upon their extravagance.

We hear a great deal of talk about the carrying on of public works. Hon. gentlemen opposite pride themselves on their determination to carry on these works. If public works are carried on in a proper way, we in our part of the country need the extension and expansion of those works as much as any others. I submit that the old eastern settlements of Canada are entitled to as much consideration as any other part of the country. Yet, after nearly two hundred years of settlement we have less conveniences in the way of public utilities in some parts of my county than in the newly-settled portions of the far West. I do not begrudge our friends in the West anything that is done for them. I will cheerfully vote for the ten or eleven millions proposed for their assistance. But I submit that when the fishermen along the coast require assistance to enable them to get properly on their field on the sea, as the farmer in the West goes to his field on the prairie, they are entitled to the consideration of this Government. Before the present Government came into power we had the Government committed to the building of harbours and breakwaters and the dredging of streams and outlets of harbours along the coast of my county as well as other parts of Nova Scotia to enable our fishermen to use the class of boat necessary to carry on their work as it ought to be carried on. I am sorry to say that all these were wiped out from the Estimates with a stroke of the pen, and not a dollar has been spent in my own county or in any county in eastern Nova Scotia, so far as I know, except, forsooth, the county of Halifax. We have had millions spent in that county and not a cent elsewhere. The Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) is not here, but I brought to his notice last year the fact that in 1911 we were ready to start the construction of three short lines of railway in the province of Nova Scotia—one in Halifax county, one in Guysborough and the third in my own county of Victoria. Tenders had been called and contracts were ready, and in some cases signed. In my own county the whole thing was thrown to the winds and nothing has been done since. The same treatment was meted out to the people of Guysborough. But the Prime Min-