

duce our surplus in the bank. But any schoolboy knows you cannot show deficits and still have money in the bank, that you must reduce your surplus in the bank if you want to carry on your works. We have shown that condition of financial affairs during these years. But my friends opposite hoped the people of this country were not a reading people, and would not delve into what the financial statements would show. My friends have stated that we are bankrupt, but I can inform them that we have today over \$2,500,000 in the bank. (Applause). I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I said that; my friends and their supporters as soon as they hear there are \$2,500,000 in the bank, the whole rank and file of the Liberal party will be in the City of Victoria before the end of a week. (Laughter.)

Policy of Development

In this connection I wish to say, as a Government we have pursued our policy of development because the people asked us by an almost unanimous vote in the elections, and by the vote before that, in the preceding elections, to go on and develop the country along the lines we have been doing. We are doing it in the ways I have referred to, and we are doing it in the ways we propose now. But we are not perfection. I leave perfection to the Opposition. We are naturally people that make mistakes; and the people in the country make mistakes. And it will be found that the intelligent voter of the country will recognize that perhaps any Government may make mistakes in connection with the handling of the business of the country, especially in the face of such speculative times as we have had during the last few years. (Applause.)

Now just one or two other words on this point. We have, of course, a large guaranteed debt, which the people on two occasions have highly approved—on the last occasion pretty nearly unanimously with the exception of the two members of the Socialist party, who found their way into the House. A part of these guarantees do not affect the credit of this country, because Sir Robert Borden for the Dominion government, put in \$45,000,000, which of course must be protected before our

guarantee could be called upon; and the result is that so far as the Canadian Northern Pacific is concerned there will never be any call for British Columbia to pay on either the principal or interest which they guaranteed.

Pacific Great Eastern

The Pacific Great Eastern is in a different position; but with the Pacific Great Eastern we have a road running through perhaps the most magnificent country which can be developed in British Columbia. And another thing, which must never be forgotten, is that with the Pacific Great Eastern we have the personal covenant of Messrs. Foley, Welch & Stewart also—which we have not in the case of the Canadian Northern Pacific. And as a result, if the worst comes to the worst, we have these men who are well fixed financially; they may at the present time be like everybody else that they have not the amount of money to their credit in the banks that they would like, but there is no question about their resources or assets; and I do not think so far as British Columbia is concerned, that we have the slightest fear in so far as these guarantees are concerned. (Applause.)

Now, what is the debt, so far as the country is concerned? Today, our net debt is \$18,400,000. Let us compare that with the City of Vancouver. The debt of the City of Vancouver is \$35,000,000—twice that of the great Province of British Columbia. The City of Victoria's debt is \$17,000,000—within a million of the Province's debt. The per capita debt of this Province at \$18,400,000, figures out \$40 per capita; the per capita debt of Vancouver is \$200, and of Victoria, \$250.

The Municipal Debt

Now let us take the municipal debt of this Province. This is \$95,000,000, as against the \$18,400,000 of the Province itself. The municipalities have a debt of \$95,000,000, with security covering 1,600 square miles; our \$18,400,000 debt covers 350,000 square miles. Is there any man who says he is afraid of the future of British Columbia in relation to its debt? These figures explain themselves. When you think of the municipalities of this Province owing a debt of \$95,000,000 as against our \$18,400,000, there is nobody here who is