

right of the government—that during the last ten months this country has collected more revenue than it has ever done in any ten months of its history. According to the Canada Gazette of Saturday last, the total taxes collected in Canada during the last ten months amounted to nearly \$330,000,000, and of that vast sum over \$152,000,000 came from customs.

O, ye free traders! Ye free traders from the province of Saskatchewan, who sit to the right of those who sit to the right of the Speaker, rejoice and be exceeding glad that \$152,000,000 of taxation was raised by customs. And that is only \$25,000,000 in excess of the taxes thus raised the year before. This, of course, meant greater opportunities for expenditures; and notwithstanding all that we have been told, the truth is, as indicated by the Canada Gazette, that during the last ten months this country has expended some \$15,000,000 more, in ordinary expenditures, than in the same period last year. Oh, they say, that is nothing; we have the money—we have \$152,000,000 in customs taxes and \$15,000,000 more to spend for any purpose under the sun. And there are not lacking those on the other side of the house who will tell us how usefully the money has been expended for the purpose of advancing the public interest and promoting the political welfare of the government.

There are some matters which are not dealt with but which we expected to see mentioned in the speech from the throne. For example, there are the reparation claims: we expected that, at the very least, the speech from the throne would take notice of this matter. It does not; but on the order paper we have, immediately after the order for the consideration of the speech, the intimation that 2½ millions will be used for the purpose. I can only hope that in the distribution of these sums of money regard will be had to the purposes for which the money is paid, and the adjudications of the tribunal that had to consider the claims of the applicants. That matter will of course be the subject of a subsequent debate and I will therefore say nothing further with relation to it.

I had looked for some reference to the senate; I thought that the senate would be modernized and reformed, because most speeches from the throne which we have had since 1922 have contained some reference to that chamber. But there is nothing in the speech this year in that regard. I recall a speech of my right hon. friend (Mr. MacKenzie King) in western Canada last fall,

[Mr. Bennett.]

and I remember that a greater than he was dealing with the reform of the senate when he left it to Providence.

But I have always thought that there was one matter which the government should, in these days of buoyant revenues, properly consider, and that is old age pensions and allied social problems. The right hon. the Prime Minister was good enough some years ago to indicate that, in his view, a system of old age pensions and social legislation worthy of the name should contain some provision with respect to contributions on the part of the persons affected. As it is to-day, we have but what has been called the dole system. In Great Britain they have no such dole system, inasmuch as the employer, the employee and the state make contributions. Here, on the other hand, the taxpayer alone contributes—the taxpayer of the Dominion, first, through the contribution of one half by the Dominion to the provinces, and, secondly, the taxpayers of the provinces themselves. Now the time has come when a large system of old age pensions should be developed, and a measure to that end should be submitted, with the joint approval of the provinces and of the Dominion, so that men and women might be able to make those contributions so essential to place a system of this sort upon a proper basis, as is the case in other countries. I go further and say that if we fail to take this step we shall place an intolerable burden not only on the Dominion but on the provinces themselves—and this in the not very distant future. For there is, to use language which is sometimes employed in connection with marine matters, “a slack” that must be taken up; there is a large number of older persons whose contributions will not take care of their own particular cases, and the state itself must fill that gap by the contributions it makes. I hope that the government will take this matter into its earnest consideration, in these days of buoyant revenues.

There is one other matter I wish to suggest to the administration, and with it I have concluded my observations. There are two great problems that confront the people of the British Empire; they are the largest problems that have ever been offered for the solution of men and women in any age. We inhabit one-fourth of the world's area; we have one-fourth of its population; we have the greatest unoccupied spaces ever given to a people in trust. These great spaces came to us through the toil, the effort and the sacrifice of men and women of ages long since past. We have a population congested in some sections, and a sparse population in others. Why should not the congested areas