

The Address—Mr. Edwards (Frontenac)

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): No I have no intention of the kind.

Mr. HEAPS: The inference is there just the same.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): The inference I want the hon. gentleman to take—and I think he is intelligent enough to take it—is this: That in the case I referred to the bandit used force, took advantage of circumstances, to obtain what he wanted whether he was entitled to it or not; and the plain inference from my remarks is that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) have done exactly the same thing. I want to tell them that in my judgment such methods are absolutely subversive of the very first principles of responsible government.

Now, the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Forke) asked me a question. We are told that many long years ago a gentleman named Cincinnatus was twice taken from between the handles of the plough and conducted to Rome as dictator, and with the help of the Roman legions performed some wonderful achievements. I believe, on looking over the record, that the hon. member for Brandon has twice been taken from the handles of the plough, brought down here, and is in the position of dictator to the government at the present time. I dare say that with the help of the legions across the way he will be able to perform achievements even greater than those performed by Cincinnatus.

The present situation in this House, which has been brought about by the government's greed for office, is nothing more or less than a two-ringed political circus, with the hon. member for Brandon as the ringmaster cracking the whip and obliging hon. gentlemen opposite to dance to his music. Well, every circus, of course, has its clown, its fun maker, and it is almost unnecessary for me to say who occupies that position in this particular political circus. We all appreciate the fact that the central actor in this political vaudeville is the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Thank you.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): I wish to say that I would be remiss in my duty if I did not express to that hon. gentleman my thanks for the entertainment he has provided for the amusement of the members of this House—my appreciation of his magnificent humour and of the grotesque verbiage in which he clothes that humour.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

[Mr. Heaps.]

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): What is wrong about that?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Let him go on. It is a free country.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): The situation, Mr. Speaker, strikes me as one of the greatest farces ever staged in any deliberative assembly in this or any other country. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. King, Kootenay) the other day quoted a number of figures in regard to the paper industry, the transportation of grain by our railways, and so on. He also declared that the government had given very strong evidence of economy in administration, and so forth. He did not call attention to the fact that the government had paid out over \$75,000 to a pulpwood commission, or \$167,000 to a grain commission.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): All of value.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): Nor did he call attention to the \$181,000 spent on radio outfits.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): All of value.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): "All of value," the hon. gentleman says. Nor did he call attention to the \$270,000 paid out in providing golf courses for the entertainment or amusement of those gentlemen who have wealth enough to travel up and down the country with a bag of sticks under their arm and play with a little round white ball whenever they feel like doing so. Nor did he call attention to the Scribe hotel facts, closely connected with our railway arrangements. He did not point out that they paid to a gentleman called Aronovici \$16,250 for thirteen months work, \$9,291 for expenses or pocket money, and then gave him a bonus of \$7,500 besides, a total of \$33,041 to that gentleman, or an average of \$85.75 a day for his work. These are the evidences of economy on the part of the government opposite.

But there is more. Between 1917 and 1920, both years inclusive, the Conservative government collected in special war taxes \$179,939,000. That was denounced in the strongest possible terms by hon. gentlemen opposite, but in the next four years—1921 to 1924 inclusive—those hon. gentlemen collected \$709,540,000 from the same source, or \$529,000,000 more than was collected by those whom they formerly condemned. The total taxes collected during the period from 1917 to 1920 under the Conservatives were \$1,156,000,000, or an average of \$289,000,000 a year. That was denounced by hon. gentlemen opposite. "Put us in power," they said, "and we will reduce