

Not very long ago in this very province of Ontario the newspapers, irrespective of party, carried on a campaign against government house in Toronto. They were going to get rid of it, and they almost did so when a Progressive government came in. When the Progressive government came in and looked the situation over and had a conference with the lieutenant governor, they represented to the lieutenant-governor, so I am told, that they did not object to maintaining the government house in a way that the province would be proud of, but what they objected to was some of the conditions that had been reported to prevail there. And the lieutenant governors coming into that house, because they happened to be wealthy men, able to spend their own money, have made government house in the province of Ontario popular. If then the government house in the province of Ontario is popular, how much greater reason is there to make the government house of the Dominion of Canada popular? At Rideau Hall Their Excellencies entertain not only members of parliament and visitors from sister nations, but representatives, for instance, of all the different churches of Canada who come here from time to time. I recall that not very long ago they entertained representatives of a teachers' association. They are always entertaining visitors who come to the capital city. They are ready to do their part, and are spending their money; and surely the least we can do is to keep that place in a respectable condition.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I want to ask the Minister of Finance if he thinks it is a good thing that we should set up such style that only rich men could occupy that position?

Mr. ROBB: I submit to my hon. friend that if we are to keep an official residence for the governor general, we should at least maintain it in such a condition that when a representative Australian comes here, or a representative of New Zealand, of the Irish Free State or of the mother country, we shall not be ashamed of it, and the visitors will have occasion to go back and say: Well, after all, Canada is a pretty good country—as good as our own.

Mr. EVANS: As seconder of the amendment moved by the member for Winnipeg North Centre, notwithstanding all that the Minister of Finance has said I am not convinced that all this money is needed every year. According to the sums read out by the Minister of Public Works to-day. I am positive that what was spent during the last fifteen years on government house and grounds is not

[Mr. Robb.]

in value there to-day. I am wondering whether a proper balance account is kept of any part of the public works system by the government, and if the assets and liabilities balance as they go along. I do not like opposing these votes, but seeing the terrible extravagance around the city of Ottawa, including the central park and the beautification of this city, with all its lavish alterations, I say it is unreasonable at this time; and I want to tell the cabinet right here that these things are taken out of the sweated labour of those who have to make their living by the sweat of their brow to-day—out of the sweated labour of the men and women to say nothing of the children, on the farms of Canada. I recall quite clearly that last year when we sought a raise for certain civil servants whose salaries were far below the living line the Minister of Finance himself said it was time someone spoke on behalf of the taxpayers of the country.

Mr. ROBB: I will venture to say that the average civil servant in Canada is paid more than my hon. friend pays his employees.

Mr. EVANS: My employees have always been paid a living wage. I venture to say that \$917 is not a living wage in Canada to-day. More than that, the minister has spoken of the different viewpoints between the Progressives and the bureaucrats of Toronto and Ottawa. I want to tell him that the Progressives when in power in any of the provinces have been the best governments. The Progressive government that was in Toronto could account for every dollar that was spent.

Mr. GOTT: Quite so, and they ended up with a deficit of \$15,000,000.

Mr. EVANS: Perhaps they did not beautify the grounds of the lieutenant-governor. The grounds and the governor's residence would have had attention if required. The line of cleavage that has been drawn, particularly the last two years, by this parliament between those who have to work for their living and those who are at the head of affairs in this nation is daily becoming more and more objectionable. Much as I dislike to oppose these votes as they come along, I should not be doing my duty to-day did I not protest against this lavish extravagance.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance, speaking for the treasury board, accuses some on this side of the house of being quite willing to spend a lot more money, and further accuses them of asking for money to be spent in their own constituencies. I can answer the minister,