

C 55979

THE EXPENDITURE OF CANADA AND ITS TAXES.

Immediately after the delivery of the budget speech, the financial critic of the Opposition made a statement appearing on p.2555 of Hansard, to the effect that "there has been year by year under this Government an annual increase in expenditure", and says that he makes this statement without fear of contradiction. Well, Sir, I can only say that the public accounts of Canada and all the available financial records, kept as they have been in the same manner since before the war, give him the most absolute and unequivocal contradiction, so that it would appear that his statement was made in ignorance of the facts, as perhaps is not unnatural in a critic who was acting as a substitute. Yet, as the statement has been made by the authorized financial critic of the Opposition, it seems desirable in the interest of the national credit once more to place on record the real facts of the situation.

There are three sets of comparable figures, each of which is sometimes described as the expenditure of Canada. Taking first the total expenditures of the country for the fiscal year ended 1921, the first full year after the war and demobilization period was over, and the subsequent years, we find that the grand total expenditures, including advances to the C.N.R. and the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, have been as follows:-

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers  
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