

House of Commons Debates

THIRD SESSION—NINTH PARLIAMENT

SPEECH

OF

MR. R. L. BORDEN, M.P.

ON

THE BUDGET

OTTAWA, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1903

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, I must in the first place congratulate my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding) on the very excellent speech from his standpoint which he delivered yesterday. That the hon. gentleman always makes the best of the situation we will all acknowledge, and while yesterday he had even a larger number than usual of very sharp corners to turn, he on the whole accomplished it as well as could be expected. And, whenever he did upset he gathered himself up quickly again and he went on in as smiling a way as ever. Now, while the speech was received by the House in a very appreciative and attentive manner, I was astonished to see what a singularly soporific effect so good a speech had on some of his

colleagues. I noticed that there was not the attention given to it by some of the members of the cabinet which we might have reasonably expected. In fact, I do not think that I have ever before witnessed in this House a budget speech of interest delivered while four of the Finance Minister's colleagues were sound asleep; and one of them enjoyed it so much that he woke up at six o'clock to protest against the debate being adjourned.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). My hon. friend the Finance Minister congratulates the country upon its prosperity. We, on this side of the House, shall not be behind hand in congratulating the country upon the prosperous conditions at present existing, and in that respect we offer a somewhat different spectacle to that which was presented in days past, by the Liberals when in opposition, some of whom were good enough to offer not only to this country but to the mother country a style of literature which was found very useful indeed by American immigration agents.