11·19 per cent; care of returned soldiers, 2·9 per cent; a total of 50·28 per cent. These figures go to show that a very large portion of the debt of this country and the interest thereon is due to the war.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this question: From whom did we get that two billion dollars which we borrowed during that war? Am I to be told that in Canada there were men who during the war were actually making money and lending it out at high rates of interest to this country? If not, where did the money come from? Am I to be told further that we at that time—not this government or the former government—issued bonds which were tax free, so that we were not even able to tax those who made profits out of the war on the income from those bonds? Everyone knows that is true. To-day that debt has increased until now it is over three billion dollars. I know, we all know, that there is great difficulty in financing not only the dominion but every province of Canada. We see the premiers or the provincial treasurers coming to Ottawa; they came to former finance ministers and they come to the present Finance minister. If I were premier of Saskatchewan or any other province I am not quite sure that I would like to subscribe to the principle of a loan council. On the other hand if I were the Minister of Finance I am not sure that I would like to have all the provinces coming to me and asking for money unless I had some control over them. But we must recognize that all these governments have sovereign authority, if we do not stretch that term too far, the same as the federal government. Surely it is a serious matter if the federal government find it necessary to impose some form of control with regard to what the provinces may do. Personally I think it is serious. But the Minister of Finance cannot be expected to continue to hand out money the way in which it has been going out unless there is some control. Take our own province of Saskatchewan; in 1929 when the Liberals went out of office the debt of Saskatchewan was about $65,000,000. The Conservatives were in power for five years, and at the end of that time that debt had increased to about $160,000,000. For twenty-four years while the Liberals were in power building up that section of the country the total debt amounted to $65,000,000, but in five short years it increased by $95,000,000. The other day I heard the leader of the opposition suggest that he was afraid that some of this money which had been provided by Canada had not been too wisely spent in some of the provinces. I suspected that he was thinking of our own province. When we see that happening there we also see similar things happening in other provinces that are now in financial difficulties.

It is a very serious matter when we consider that there is approximately $10,000,000,000 owned by the people of Canada in the form of either federal, provincial, municipal or private debts. What are we going to do about this? Is there any hon. member who really believes that we are ever going to pay these debts, under the conditions in which we are now living? This country is up on financial stilts; we must at least get one foot on the ground, and begin somewhere. In my humble judgment we must refinance the debt of Canada, federal, provincial, municipal and private. It might surprise the leader of the opposition if he were in the house if I told him that on the platform during the election campaign I gave him the credit, and was proud to give him the credit, for the refinancing which he did, by which he saved some interest to the Canadian people. But I suggested then, and suggest now that what has been done is nothing to what must be done. My suggestion is that we should set up in this country a committee of experts to analyze the situation. There is no man in the house, no man in Canada more proud than I am that we have perhaps one of the ablest Ministers of Finance who have ever occupied that position. I suppose all hon. members are probably a little fed up with what we call royal commissions, but I am going to suggest to the minister that we set up a committee of experts who would analyze the federal, provincial and municipal situations, and would even consider the private debt of the country. After having done that, we must not be afraid to do that thing which in my humble judgment must be done, and will ultimately be done before once again we can get on an even keel.

I do not believe any federal government in Canada should be paying an interest rate higher than two per cent. I do not believe we can continue to do what we are doing. When commercial firms get into difficulties, what do they do? They meet their creditors to make arrangements. In Saskatchewan the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act is operating, and we have set up a debt adjustment board. On this occasion I want to pay tribute to the men actually engaged in that work, but they can work only within circumscribed limits. All they are doing is to touch the