

the British North America Act, 1867, it is permissible—and to what extent—or forbidden, for the Senate to amend a Bill embodying financial clauses, the said Committee to report to the Senate as soon as possible.

The Committee was appointed, and honourable gentlemen of the Senate will find at pages 193 and following the report of that Committee, whose Chairman was the present Senator from Middleton (Hon. W. B. Ross), with a memorandum attached, prepared by Hon. Mr. Ross himself. That report asserts the right of the Senate to amend money Bills. It was unanimously adopted by this Chamber. I desire to say that I will not recede from the position I then took. I may question the wisdom, but will never question the right, of this Chamber to intervene in the discussion of the money Bills that are presented to it. The situation is so grave that I am sure the Government and the people are entitled to the co-operation of all the members of the two branches of Parliament in the solution of our financial difficulties.

The Speech from the Throne mentioned the operation of our railway system. We have now absorbed all the railways in Canada except the C.P.R.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: And the Baie des Chaleurs.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The question is in everybody's mind: is there enough traffic originating in Canada, or coming from outside, for our present mileage? It is agreed on all sides that our population is too small to furnish the tonnage necessary to enable us to meet our railway obligations. The most important and pressing thing to do will be to cut down expenditure and eliminate duplications. At the same time, we shall have to see if we cannot increase our population. That is the easiest and surest way to increase our tonnage. But immigration must be selected. It must be directed to our farms. We cannot seek industrial workers in industrial countries when the situation is already so critical as regards unemployment in our cities. We must seek good immigrants. We must place them on the farms.

But what is the present situation in the West? I am informed that very little arable land is left in the possession of the Government within fifteen or twenty miles from any railway in the three prairie provinces, and yet there are in the West over 22,000,000 acres of unoccupied and uncultivated land alienated from the

Crown within fifteen or twenty miles of railway lines. This includes the Hudson Bay and the C.P.R. land. What can be done to get those private interests to receive the settler and offer him at a fair price the land which is thus held vacant? That is one of the most interesting and engrossing problems confronting the present Government. I believe we shall have to turn to the Eastern Provinces as well as those of the West, and ask them to compete in offering the best possible terms to the settler. Settlers we need, if we would solve the railway problem and at the same time the financial problem, and in the campaign which will be initiated for the purpose of attracting settlers to our lands I hope to see considerable emulation on the part of each province in offering them the best terms possible.

My honourable friend (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) has dealt at considerable length with the past, and with the causes of the reverse of the Government which went down to defeat on the 6th of December last. I did not intend to touch on any of those questions, nor to turn backward. I felt that henceforth we should apply ourselves to solving the very important problems that confront us. I will say but one word in answer to the honourable gentleman's queries, why has Quebec elected sixty-five opponents of the last Government, and why have the three central provinces of the West, including his own province, gone likewise against the late Government? I allude simply to the two groups which my honourable friend has mentioned. Now, I do not want to be in the least recriminative. Last year, in the discussion of the Address, I gave two reasons why those two groups would be solidly opposed to the Government. Among other reasons that actuated them, I felt that the West had a grievance against the East—that it had reason to complain of what I might call the egotism of certain classes in the East, of which my honourable friend (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) and the right honourable gentleman whom we welcome among us to-day (Right Hon. Sir George Foster) took advantage in 1911. The West wanted markets. Sir Wilfrid Laurier offered them the American market. From 1866 to 1911 the two parties had been in favour of reciprocity in natural products between Canada and the United States. Up to the death of Sir John A. Macdonald the party's credo had been reciprocity in natural products. In the elections of 1891 the Liberal party fought for unrestricted