

Mr. PAQUET (Translation): If you read the Auditor General's report, you will see that Mr. Bergeron is paid \$20 a day salary, besides board and lodging, and if the hon. member can prove the contrary I am willing to forfeit my seat.

Mr. PROULX (Translation): The Auditor General's report shows that Mr. Bergeron receives \$30 a day.

Mr. PAQUET (Translation): Mr. Bergeron is paid only \$20 a day and his expenses, and I defy the hon. member to contradict me when I say there is no person anywhere acting as counsel for the Government in the criminal courts who receives less than \$20 a day.

Mr. PROULX (Translation): They are not paid \$10 extra for living expenses.

Mr. PAQUET (Translation): As Canadians and British subjects, we have to discuss questions so much more important, questions which concern the future of the country, that we cannot spend any more time on these penny-wise-pound-foolish criticisms. I simply quote the report of the Auditor General H-48 1913-14: Salary of Mr. Bergeron at the rate of \$20 a day.

Mr. PROULX (Translation): Give the amount in full. You say nothing about the \$10 a day expenses.

Mr. PAQUET (Translation): The hon. gentleman will be entirely free to say anything he pleases when I am through.

Some months before the fall of the Liberal Administration, when the country was suffering from irregularities, misappropriation of public funds, had the hon. member the courage to denounce these abuses? Never. When the books were falsified, when documents were destroyed, the country's resources given away, had the hon. member the courage to utter a cry of warning? Never.

The hon. member and his friends have only words of censure for those who wanted to learn the truth in the investigation of the most serious charges.

The hon. Minister of Inland Revenue, who wisely denounced such misdeeds, was held up to ridicule, and even threatened with the loss of his portfolio.

My hon. friend from Laprairie has even approved of the throwing-away of 40 millions in the construction of the Transcontinental.

The country, to its honour, realizes its duty to repair the losses caused by this wrongdoing.

Our opponents taunt us with appropriating excessive amounts for public works. A French economist says it is the duty of a government, during a crisis such as this, to disburse among the people, in useful enterprises, as much money as possible, thus enabling workmen to support their families. The Government is doing its duty in appropriating money for necessary public works, and withal conducting the business of the country with as much caution and system as is shown by our business men in the management of their private affairs. We have no wish to make hard times worse and compel the workman to beg for his bread.

The Federal Government very properly asks the House to vote considerable amounts to assure to Quebec a future worthy of a national seaport.

The construction of a double track between Lévis and Chaudière, the building of the Quebec bridge; of the workshops of Saint-Malo; of a dry-dock; of a grain elevator; and the works of the Harbour Commission, will be of immense benefit to the country at large.

I cannot thank the Government too much for its strenuous efforts to fully equip our seaports, and particularly the port of Quebec in order to control the western traffic.

The task of creating a New Quebec is accomplished, and the city of Champlain owes to the Conservative government the realization of its dreams and its definite launching on the highway of progress.

A transportation system is necessary for the development of agriculture, of commerce, and of industries. I therefore thank the Government for the opening to traffic of the Transcontinental from Lewis to Moncton. The people of the southeast part of the province of Quebec fully appreciate this important improvement.

According to some politicians, the Government is imposing unjust and misleading taxes, notwithstanding that Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance under the Liberal Government, declares that the present Finance Minister seems to have found the best possible solution of a delicate problem.

In 1911, the Conservative party fell heir to most onerous obligations. The hon. Minister of Finance has shown that the Liberal Government would have ruined the country in the space of a generation had it remained in power.

We have been forced to expend enormous amounts to continue the undertakings begun