

Mr. PUGSLEY: Hear, hear.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Hear, hear.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: They know very well that they have. They know very—

Mr. PUGSLEY: Just make a comparison.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: All the same, just as I state it I believe it. I have stated it before and I will state it again; and I do not think I come with an empty plea, or a plea that will be refused—

Mr. GRAHAM: An empty treasury, though.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: —by the House or by the country, when I ask that the coffers of the Trade and Commerce Department be a little more generously filled up than they have been. I leave you my administration in the past from 1911 up to the present time. The books are there, my reports are there, my work is there.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Hear, hear.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: And all of you are quite welcome to go and examine every bit of it. I have not done all I have tried to do; I have not done all I wanted to do; but I have tried to manage my department in a fair, reasonable, and economical way.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Hear, hear.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: But there comes a time when economy must be given a little different translation. That time has come now in my department, and I am going to ask my colleagues, and afterwards this House, to be a little more generous to my department for the next few years which are to come.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Will they be in the supplementaries?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes, they will be in the supplementaries; that is where these things come. I have wearied the House probably longer than I should have done—

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no; go on.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER:—But I felt it my duty to lay these things before the House and to enlist the sympathy of men on both sides of the House in this matter; and if I can have the extreme pleasure of having hon. gentlemen on both sides of this House, after this brief sketch of what I propose to do, give me the benefit of their criticisms, I shall feel greatly indebted to them.

[Sir George Foster.]

If something that I have in view now can be better done, let me have it. On this side the House, or on the other side, let us at least take up this question, a mighty and tremendous one, and one which I have very inadequately brought to the attention of the House. Let us take it up, put aside our party prejudices and our party shibboleths for a moment, and come right down to a good hearty committee-of-the-whole conference upon what is best to be done, and how it can be done, under present conditions, in reference to the development and the distribution of our country's products.

Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX: I agree with almost every word my hon. friend has uttered this afternoon, but I would like him to supplement his remarks by declaring that the business commission which he is going to appoint and send abroad will be of a non-partisan character.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. PUGSLEY: That is dissented from.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I know that if I gave my hon. friend warning ahead it would be a shock to him, but he will see what the commission is to be when I announce the names.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I have listened with a great deal of pleasure to my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce. He has certainly given us a very valuable and informative address. When he stated that he intended to enlist the sympathy of his colleagues as well as the sympathy of the other members of this House I thought I would like to have a well-secured dictaphone under the council table when my hon. friend was pressing his colleagues to support him, and especially when he was impressing upon them the necessity of economy in the other departments of the Government, in order that he might have a little more money to carry out the important projects which he has in view. There is the difficulty with the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce; he never brings to bear upon his colleagues his great ability and what ought to be his surpassing influence. If he does we fail to see any results. My hon. friend has come to this House on more than one occasion and talked eloquently and forcibly of the necessity of economy. You, Sir, have heard him say in stentorian tones that he abhorred extravagance and believed in econ-