

eizing the Government, but simply to point out the duty of the Government at this particular crisis.

Apparently we are still bent upon the same course; for the so-called reorganization of the Public Service amounts to very little. It will at best effect an economy of only about \$20,000,000 annually. The unfortunate effect of our present course is that in our expenditure and our taxation we are setting the pace for the provinces and the municipalities. There is scarcely a province or a municipality in the Dominion that is not in the running with the Federal Government in increasing its expenditure and its taxation, so that we now have three taxing bodies in the Dominion, triplicating the tax imposed by the Federal Government.

Honourable gentlemen may ask in what way this can be prevented. Well, if it is permitted without any effort on the part of the Federal Government, it will in my judgment result in national disaster. It is bringing about that result to-day. One hesitates to speak about this, honourable gentlemen. I have no desire to refer to the great loss of population we are suffering. I agree with what my honourable friend from Lambton (Hon. Mr. Pardee) says about the maintenance in Canada of a patriotic spirit and a feeling of optimism which will result in the development of the magnificent resources and potential wealth which this country possesses. But, honourable gentlemen, we cannot live upon this kind of sentiment. Canada has demonstrated probably better than any other nation its patriotism and its pride in itself. During the late war no other nation representing nine millions of people performed such prodigies of service and of valour as did Canada at that time. It is needless to repeat that Canada, as an earnest of its patriotic spirit, sent to the front 500,000 men and spent two billions of dollars upon war, and that 60,000 of her sons lie buried on the battlefields of France. The people of Canada cannot demonstrate their patriotism more than they did during the late war. But, honourable gentlemen, this has become an entirely different matter. We can best show our patriotism to Canada by cultivating a proper attitude of mind in facing our financial responsibilities, and as I have already stated, unless we take up this problem seriously it will result most disastrously for Canada.

Those of us who come from the West have some knowledge of the effect of the situation upon the development of that western country. There is no part of the world with greater potential wealth than the Northwest of Canada. We have to-day in those three

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

Western Provinces, at least 200,000,000 acres of arable land, only 18 per cent of which is settled. But, it is estimated, there are to-day in those three Provinces fewer farms than there were five years ago. Our last decennial census establishes the fact that between 1901 and 1921 this country brought in about 3,700,000 immigrants, but by 1921 our increase in population had fallen short of that number by 160,000. It simply means that we have been standing still during that period, and that many of our people have gone to the United States; That is to say, that notwithstanding what we have gained by natural increase, we have lost the entire volume of our immigration. I know of no more patriotic work, honourable gentlemen, than for the people of Canada to give more serious consideration to the rectification of the many abuses from which we suffer to-day.

As I said in the beginning, it is not my intention to direct this criticism against the Government. I say it is a condition that has prevailed in Canada for many years. Unfortunately we have an antiquated system of governmental administration. I do not speak of our parliamentary system, but I say that the administration of the affairs of Canada is antiquated, is archaic. We have no machinery by which public affairs may be administered properly, or as efficiently as business is transacted by the large corporations of this or any other country. Honourable gentlemen know that most government business is transacted departmentally. We have not in any of our Departments of Government the proper means for the solution of important problems involving great economic questions, or having to do with the development and progress of our country, or the successful administration of its affairs.

Let me illustrate what I mean. I will take three or four subjects to show the futility of our machinery in dealing with important matters. Take for instance the agricultural situation in the West. We know that for years there has been throughout the Northwest a seething discontent. We know that an outward and visible sign or expression of that discontent was given on the eve of the last election, when a new political party sprang up in a night and extirpated the two old-line parties. You could not have anything more significant than that. Yet nothing has been done and apparently nothing can be done by the Government with its present machinery to investigate the many reasons for this discontent and this failure of development. It cannot be done departmentally. The Government, as a Government,