

talking, with respect to this matter, as though it were just something to pass by with a shrug of the shoulders and a passing sentence, I can only say that the other day, asking what was involved in the financing for 1932, I was told that the taxpayers of Canada must provide \$80,000,000. It was \$112,000,000 last year; later on you will hear something of that in a supplementary estimate, but here we have \$80,000,000 apparently as an irreducible minimum. After you have balanced your budget there is your problem. Is it any wonder that we took time to endeavour to secure the men we did secure? I will not discuss their qualifications, because everyone here must know what they are. At the time the house rose we had not determined what action would be taken, but as the weeks passed by and the situation became worse, it was apparent that the obligation rested upon us to provide some means by which the Canadian people might understand the enormity of the problem with which they as taxpayers had to deal, and the tremendous financial burden that rested upon them. That is all I can usefully say with respect to this matter.

There are other matters to which reference might be made, but ample opportunity will be provided to do so as the session progresses. I deny that this government desires in any way to lessen discussion in parliament. When I think of what took place last session; when I think that not once, not twice but thrice the same speeches were made, I wonder that the right hon. gentleman rose in his place to-day and said no time was given to discuss these matters. I saw a smile flit over the faces of his own followers when they recalled the discussions that did take place. This government welcomes the fullest criticism of its actions in every way; its administration of the finances of the country, its administration of unemployment funds, of relief funds or of all other funds that have been entrusted to its care. If there be any wrong-doing; if there be any slackening of control; if there be any failure to take advantage of those facilities that were provided in the law of last session which was designed to safeguard the public treasury, let us hear about it. We shall endeavour in the future, as in the past, to meet the obligations that rest upon us as a government.

The right hon. gentleman has said that these obligations are upon us because we have brought them upon ourselves. Well, that would not be the judgment of the impartial historian. I have pointed out the distinction that must be drawn between domestic and

world conditions, between local and external conditions. The speech from the throne makes that abundantly clear. We are a part of the great cosmos; we are part of the world, and to that extent we are influenced by the great currents and forces of the world. We have never at any time, either before or during the election, endeavoured to minimize that fact, but I said then as I say now that these domestic conditions would not be confronting us if the former government had realized what was coming during the nine years it was in power, if it had read aright the signs that others could see but it could not see. Had they heeded the warnings that were evident we would not be compelled to face the problems we have had to face and are facing to-day. But this I will say further: I defy any man to say that Canadians, faced with these problems, could have adjusted their difficulties as we have done had they retained the policies that were then in force. We have changed them for the public good, and the people of this country realize that in this government they have men who are endeavouring to do their best in these present world conditions. And if the policy of this government commends itself to the judgment of intelligent observers abroad, as it does, and this country occupies the high place it does in the estimate of those who are able to draw conclusions, then we care very little for that carping, blue-ruin criticism which we have heard to-night, but we shall march forward to the duties that lie before us.

On motion of Mr. Gardiner the debate was adjourned.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

## Tuesday, February 9, 1932

The house met at three o'clock.

### FISH INSPECTION ACT

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Acting Minister of Fisheries) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 6, to amend the Fish Inspection Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. DURANLEAU: The act requires that barrels or other containers of such fish as come under its provisions shall be made in accordance with the defined standards, that the fish be cured, graded and packed as prescribed in the regulations, and that the packer