

say it to honourable members of this House—that for some years past Canada, like all other countries, has been passing through a period of reconstruction. We have had our troubles following the war, and, like other countries, we have laboured under disabilities. It was only in the latter part of 1923 that Canada began to find her feet again—to settle down in a normal condition—to feel, after all she had undergone, that she was able to take up and carry along those measures that were best for the people as a whole.

I cannot help thinking, in connection with the Speech from the Throne, that it embodies a very healthy idea of Canadianism. It appears to me, if I may be permitted to say so, that if there is one thing that this country needs more than any other at the present time, it is that the spirit of Canadianism be instilled into our people. We ought to imbue ourselves and imbue others with a wholesome Canadian spirit and develop it to a considerably greater degree than it has been developed up to the present time. There ought to be, in my opinion, more pride of nationality than we now have; there ought to be more of our own history taught in our schools to our young people. Indeed, Canadian history should be taught not merely to our young people, but even to men who sit in this or in the other Chamber. Consider how glorious has been the history of Canada. In reading the works of Parkman and others dealing with the development of this Dominion, one cannot but be impressed with the fact that it is a great history, a romantic history. It would be to the advantage of every man, woman and child in this country to learn more of the history of Canada than the history of England or that of ancient Rome. The more we are imbued with the spirit of Canadianism, the better will it be for our country, and the sooner shall we be a great people.

I do not intend to take up much of the time of this honourable House with what I have to say. There are great questions confronting us. Canada is on the verge of great development, and it will be achieved if we have enough faith in ourselves and our country to take up our task and carry it along to fruition.

The first question that comes to mind is the question of taxation. At the present time, in this as in all other countries, taxation is a vital matter. Some hope is held out in the Speech from the Throne that we shall have some relief from the present heavy burden we have to bear. All Canadians should be glad that such is the case. In the first place, it will afford relief to us as in-

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dividuals. Everyone must recognize that the United States, under the Mellon scheme, is bringing about a great decrease of taxation. The tax on incomes is to be considerably lightened. Canada is in a position similar to that of the merchant: she must put her goods in the front window. Like any other country that is to-day heavily burdened with taxation, she must show that it is her intention to reduce the taxation and thus lighten the burden on the people. We must show that intention to the world, for the simple reason that the country that shows the least taxation is the one that will get the people and be the most prosperous. So it is with feelings of relief and of hope that we see foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne the intention to provide some relief from taxation, that thus the cost of living may be reduced.

Involved in that to a considerable degree is, of course, the question of expenditure. Both of the leaders in this House have touched somewhat upon that. My honourable friend the leader of the party opposite (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) said, if I understood him aright, that it was not so much a question of reducing the expenditure upon the number of people employed as it was—and I stand to be corrected if I am wrong—that the amounts that were paid should be decreased.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No, the contrary.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: Whichever it may be, all I have to say is that I am delighted to see that the Government have taken steps to initiate just such a decrease in expenditure as the people of this country have been desiring for some time. I am bound to say that any Government that does that has my extreme sympathy. There must be sympathy for a Government which is compelled to take such drastic measures, and for those upon whom the results of such measures must fall. It is a case of "Be damned if you do, and be damned if you don't." The country at large is clamouring. All sides of politics—I make no invidious distinctions—have but one cry, which, if I understand it, is that our expenditure upon public works and the services of the Dominion of Canada is above and beyond and out of all proportion to the population and the work to be done. Therefore the Government must of necessity undertake the disagreeable task of reducing its staff and reducing salaries, thereby in the first place effecting economies, and in the second place relieving the people of this country to some extent of the burden of taxation.

Canada has a population of about 9,000,000, and a debt of over \$2,000,000,000. Our expend-