

country, and the economic principles which are necessary to solve those needs.

I want to lay down four principles which I believe will guide our statesmen of the next generation in the solution of these problems. These principles will compel themselves to be adopted by our statesmen, whatever they may call themselves, Liberal, Tory or Independent. The first of them has nothing novel about it, but there must be something good about it, for it has always had very strong supporters in this House. I know that in enunciating these principles to my hon. friend the minister of Finance, I not only have one of the aptest minds to impress that Canada has at the present time in her service, or has had at any time so far as my knowledge of those minds goes, but from his utterances today I know that he is partially converted to my views already, and to the extent that he is not converted he has such an agile mind that I know his conversion will be simple if the conditions are at all favourable.

The first principle that I want to emphasize was dealt with at considerable length and in very great detail by my hon. friend the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Maclean) this afternoon. It will be absolutely necessary to economize to the utmost extent in the moneys of the country. Since Confederation, as far as my reading of Hansard has informed me, every party in this country when in opposition has preached economy and I am afraid it is equally true that every party in office has practised extravagance. That is a very lamentable record for the people of this country. There are two reasons why that record will be broken after the war. I believe, Sir, for a time conditions will be so bad that there will not be the money to spend, and that is a sure way of curing a man of extravagance. I indicated the other reason a moment ago, when I said the people of this country will be so chastened, so changed by the war, and will direct such close attention to the proceedings of Parliament that they will no longer be content to watch the struggle between the ins and the outs, but will demand that sound principles be applied to finance and to the public policy of the country generally.

We have ten governments in this country; ten prime ministers for seven millions of people! Heaven save the mark. Ten sets of cabinet ministers, and ten

sets of legislators. That is a pretty formidable thing just as I have stated it, but when you have each of these governments spending far more money than they should, I submit, Sir, that public extravagance has become in some of its aspects, the most serious problem and the most serious evil in the public life of this country. I do not want to say more under that head. I am perfectly certain that what I have said finds a resting place in the mind of every serious hon. gentleman in this House. It must do so, because the moment they get into Opposition they say exactly what I am saying, and have said so ever since Confederation.

The second principle which I want to lay down, and which will be forced upon the attention of our finance ministers, is that wealth must contribute more largely to the expenses of the Federal Government than it has ever done in the past. My hon. friend the minister indicated that this afternoon; he bases his proposed taxation in this Budget, as he did in his last, upon that principle. But I am not quite satisfied with the extent to which he is carrying his principle out. I am sure he means well, and I am sure the country recognizes that he has brought to the greater problems that have arisen during the course of this war a very acute mind and a very great knowledge of financial technique, and I am sure he has done what is perhaps the best thing that any man can do in this world: he has brought to the discharge of his duties an enormous amount of energy, continued application, and hard work. I say that with the very greatest pleasure, and I believe that it is generally recognized throughout the nation. But when I reflect that the business tax imposed last year, with all its retroaction, raised only \$12,500,000, I do not think any one will seriously claim that wealth is making anything like its proper contribution in this day towards the expenses of the Government. It is making no contribution comparable to the services and the sacrifices of the men in the trenches, and the generosity of the whole of our people, from the poorest to the wealthiest, in their private capacity, in support of the Belgian Relief, Red Cross, and Patriotic Funds, and in the hundred other ways that money has had to be raised in the course of the war. Compare that sum of \$12,500,000 with the enormous increase in our trade, as revealed in the figures of the Finance Minister, especially the enormous increase in our export